

**COLLECTOR****POLAR NUMISMATIST**

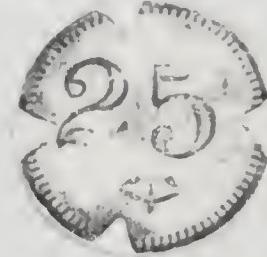
NSA Inc. • P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • Subscription \$8.00/year  
VOLUME IX, NUMBER 1.

JANUARY, 1987.

**SOLLY'S -- AT HOME IN CLEARY**

by

Ronald J. Benice



Normally, when a single-name maverick appears, I don't try hard to identify it since the identifications are tenuous and other towns and states usually have equally convincing (or unconvincing) attributions. And that's exactly what I did when the Solly's token first appeared in the October, 1983 issue of ATC&PN. Sure it was found in Fairbanks (with an "Eagle" token), but so have a lot of Washington state tokens. A cursory search through Fairbanks did not reveal a Solly's.

My interest increased when Dick Hanscom, in the June, 1986 issue of ATC&PN showed an old Fairbanks postcard with a backdrop advertising both the Eagle and Solly's. Also, both the Eagle token and the Solly's token had been mutilated into Maltese crosses. It thus was certain that both tokens were from the Fairbanks area and were contemporaneous. Solly's was worth searching for!

My search placed J & B's Eagle Cigar Store in Fairbanks, 1906 to 1909, which I reported in the September, 1986 issue of ATC&PN. Fortuitously in this search I browsed through the Directory of the Tanana Valley, published in 1907. There, in the listings for Cleary, about 20 miles outside of Fairbanks, was Solly Spring, cigars, tobacco, library and newsdealer. Once I had a last name for Solly I was able to track him as S.G. Spring, cigars and stationery, in Dun's Cleary listings from 1906 to 1909. Polk's 1907 showed him as cigars and confectionery. In sum, all comforts of a home, as shown on the advertising backdrop.

5 Skokum Johnson House.....	Stationery, Cigars
9 Spring, Solly .....	and Confectionery
.....	.....
25 Tanana Teller .....	Office
38 Totem Saloon .....	Wines and Liquors
.....	.....
19b Wahlgren, John .....	Barber Shop
6 Washington-Alaska Bank .....	
15 Willis & Welch.....	General Merchandise
.....	.....

Ring Off When Through Talking

The token has an L.S. counter-stamp. I have two possibilities for its significance. First, it could have been a family member, L. Spring, that took over the business, although there is no evidence to support this. Second, it could have been Louis Spitz who owned saloons in Fairbanks and Ruby at that time. He was the only one I found with matching initials, but I found no evidence he ever owned a business in Cleary.

From the 1906 Fairbanks phone book,  
listings for Cleary City.

## COLLECTOR'S ALERT



Yesterday I received by registered mail an item I've been working on for the past month. I'd received word of and a xerox of a Willis & Welch, Chatanika, Alaska Peanut Dept., good for 25 cents advertising mirror.

A fantastic and unique item in as much as Chatanika Benice-4a was not a pocket mirror (as so many erroneously believe) but a dual-sided celluloid advertising piece with no mirror whatsoever. That piece, in vivid color tints and in virtually mint condition, is in my collection, having been obtained from Ron Benice several years ago.

This alleged new discovery, a Chatanika good for advertising pocket mirror showing only the nursing Eskimo mother and not the dog sled scene was coming from a highly respected, knowledgeable exonomist of decades of collecting experience. So I presumed it was genuine and I was trading heavily for it.

It arrived yesterday and within 2-3 seconds of examination I determined this unique mirror to be a reproduction. A modern one, but crudely hand tinted, using modern celluloid and crimping techniques. All wording and images are blurred badly. An obvious and blatant rip-off of the dual-sided and smaller diameter Benice-4a.

I have to believe the experienced collector who was trading it to me did not recognize its dubious nature. It is dangerous enough to fool the uninitiated.

In my many years of collecting, I've only seen 2 other counterfeit good for advertising mirrors. One was from Nevada and the other was from California. They were more deceptive and better made than the Alaska

mirror. In fact, those two counterfeit mirrors fooled experienced exonomists.

It is probable that other Alaska mirror counterfeits were made. Indeed, this fake that I am now examining may eventually wind its way back into "circulation" once I return it to its source.

So beware. This could be an expensive mistake for some Alaska collector.

-Alan Weinberg

### SEGREGATION IN WHITEHORSE

Last month we showed a business card submitted by Alan Weinberg from the Pueblo Lunch in Whitehorse. There has been some misunderstanding concerning the comments that were featured along with the business card. The comments were the editor's. Mr. Weinberg submitted the card without comment.

We have received some further information on the interpretation of "Strictly White Restaurant".

Ron Greene: A comment about Alan Weinberg's interpretation of "Strictly White Restaurant" on the Pueblo Lunch. This type of statement, when used in Victoria, meant that the kitchen help was white, not Chinese or other oriental origin. Whether or not there would have been such open discrimination towards customers is questionable. There may well have been more subtle but just as effective forms of discrimination practised.

Don Stewart: May I suggest that our racism in Canada differed slightly from that in the 48. Your feature of the Pueblo Lunch seems to indicate segregation. Not so. The "Strictly white only" on the card is in reference to the fact that many of Western Canada's restaurants were using Chinese cooks from the time of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and their reputation for skill in the kitchen and for cleanliness there was not of a high order at first, creating some prejudice which is no long gone, thank goodness. So my interpretation of the phrase is that they refer to their own staff.

Our thanks to Ron and Don for this information.

## EDITORIAL

A very special thanks to Alan Weinberg for the information on the bogus advertising mirror. With the high prices being paid for Alaskan items, it was only a matter of time before someone tried to take advantage of collectors in this area. And, an advertising mirror does appear to be one of the easier items to counterfeit. Seems all it takes is a button making kit, and just add a small mirror. Fortunately, Mr. Weinberg was knowledgeable enough to uncover this piece, and expose it. I have no doubt that we could have been fooled by it!

And thanks must also go to Ron Benice for the article on the front page. While researching something else, I came upon a photocopy of a 1906 Fairbanks phone book, and thought the listing with Solly Spring would be appropriate, so it is also on the front page. Also on that part of the listing is Willis & Welch. So using that worked out well.

In hunting through our files for something to fill up space (yes, we need information, though we are pretty well set for front page articles at this time), I found an item about the Moose Goosier. This should be of interest to all who have these medals.

In For the Record, this is a wooden token for a cup of coffee at the Chilkat Restaurant in Haines. The wood was dark, and would not photocopy. So, your editor takes full responsibility for the tracing (yes, tracing, not even a hand drawing).

Finally, if your address label has 12/86 on the first line, your subscription has expired. This is the last issue you will receive unless payment is received for a new subscription.

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Editor- Dick Hanscom

Canadian Correspondent- Jerry Remick

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## OVERLAND HOTEL, CHITINA

### Chitina - Fairbanks Road

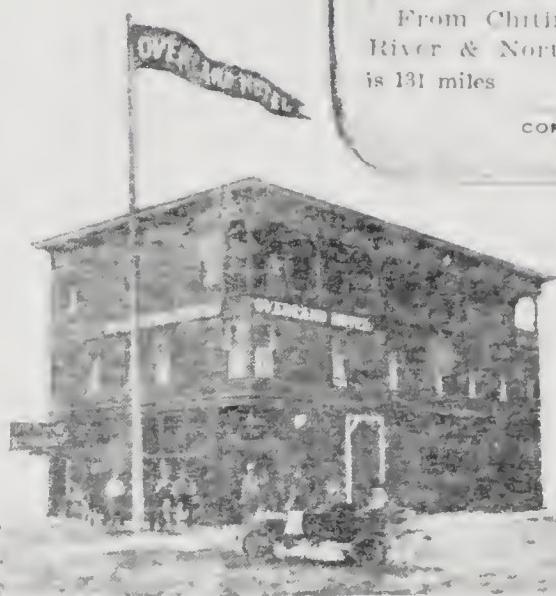
#### Official Distance Table

Compiled by Alaska Road Commission

Sum'r	Winter		Winter	
00.0	00.0	Chitina	16.6	221.7
9.0	9.0	Bull's R. H.	297.6	12.5
15.0	15.0	Lower Tonsina	191.6	16.5
26.0	26.0	Woodland	180.6	291.5
27.0	27.0	Kenny's Lake	179.6	294.5
39.0	39.0	Willow Creek	267.6	282.5
49.7	49.7	Cooper Cuter	256.9	271.8
57.7	57.7	Tazlina	248.0	263.8
59.9	59.9	Simpson's	246.7	261.6
65.8	65.8	Dry Creek	240.8	255.7
75.9	75.9	Gulkana	230.7	245.6
87.5	87.5	Polar Grove	219.1	241.0
97.5	97.5	Sour Dough	209.1	224.0
113.5	110.5	Our Home	196.1	203.0
123.5	120.5	Motors'	186.1	198.0
139.3	136.5	Paxson's	170.3	182.2
157.5	156.5	McCallum's	160.1	161.0
169.5	168.7	Miller's	158.1	152.0
182.7	181.7	Rapids	124.9	138.8
195.1	194.1	Donnelly's	112.5	126.4
231.1	.....	McCarty's	.....	90.4
249.0	.....	Cyclone	.....	72.5
252.2	.....	Richardson	.....	69.5
264.0	.....	Birch Lake	.....	57.5
.....	210.1	Gordon's	96.5	.....
.....	226.1	Sullivan's	80.5	.....
.....	237.1	Spruce Creek	69.5	.....
.....	249.1	Martins	77.5	.....
272.7	257.8	Overland	48.8	45.8
282.0	267.1	Munson's	39.5	49.5
292.8	278.9	Piledriver	27.7	27.7
303.0	288.1	Jergman's	18.5	18.5
321.5	306.6	Fairbanks	00.0	00.0

From Chitina to Cordova, on the Copper River & Northwestern Railway, the distance is 131 miles

CORDOVA DAILY ALASKAN PRINT



The Leading Hotel of Chitina

**OVERLAND HOTEL**

CHITINA, - - - ALASKA

All Rooms Heated

A Large Parlor and Reading Room

Cafe and Billiard Room

H. T. STAFHOLT, PROP.

Above is illustrated a business card from the Overland Hotel, Chitina, Alaska (B-5a). It is blue on blue cardboard. The card ads another proprietor to the list of those who once owned this establishment. The back lists the roadhouses from Chitina to Fairbanks.

## THE MOOSE GOOSER



The Moose Goosier was a steam railroad operated during the purchase centennial year of 1967 from the Alaska Railroad Depot to the International Airport in Anchorage. It made two runs daily. The following is from a brochure that was available at that time.

"The Moose-Goosier, one of the very few steam railroads in operation today, is the joint project of Anchorage Kiwanis Clubs, the New York Life Insurance Company, and the Anchorage Centennial Commission.

For the railroad buff or the old-timer, the Moose-Goosier has nostalgic memories of the great days of steam railroading.

For children, it's the thrill of a lifetime to ride behind the puffing, chugging, whistling old steam engine, looking like it had just emerged new and glittering, straight from the distant past.

For all others, it's an amusing and refreshing experience to ride this unique train, built solely for the purpose of amusement.

It consists of a 2-8-2 Mikado type engine, built in 1929 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works for the Comox Lumber Company of British Columbia. Originally it had a tank-type engine for short hauls, but later a tender was added to make longer runs possible. This engine has been leased from the West Coast Railway Association in Vancouver, B.C., and must be returned to that organization for museum purposes at the close of the Anchorage Centennial.

The chair cars are converted World War Two troop carriers, re-equipped with modern seats and re-decorated to harmonize with

the Alaska Centennial mood. One car has been extensively altered to make a club car, with a refreshment bar, a raised piano stand, and space for group singing or dancing.

Perhaps the oldest item in the assemblage is a genuine wooden caboose, used in former years by The Alaska Railroad, and now the property of Mrs. Tillie Reeve. This is not open to the public, unfortunately.

All of this equipment has been extensively repaired and restored to meet rigid modern safety standards. Actual operation of the train is limited to experienced and qualified Alaska Railroad personnel, who maintain professional railroad standards in every respect, from the careful attention to schedule to the precautions against accident or fire.

The term "Moose Goosier" was jokingly applied to the Alaska Railroad itself, because of the frequent interruptions of its trips by stubborn moose who refuse to get out of its way. Often the train proceeds at a snail's speed, gently bumping the unwilling moose in his rear until he gets it through his head that the Alaska Railroad wants the use of its track. When deep hard-crusted snow lies on either side of the track, as it usually does during the middle and late winter, Mr. Moose and his family exhibit a great preference for the clear roadway presented by the railroad bed, and an extreme aversion to being shooed off it. Hence, "moose goosing" is just another term for winter railroading in Alaska and is still practised as a high and necessary art."

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Medals were issued in 1967 with a moose getting goosed by a steam locomotive. They were struck in "nickel-silver" and brass. On the brass, the locomotive was going to the right, while on the nickel-silver, two types were made, one with the locomotive going to the right, and one with it going to the left. Both types are illustrated at the beginning of this article. In either case, the moose does not look to terribly pleased with the situation. All three medals have the Alaska Purchase Centennial totem pole on the reverse.

## FOR THE RECORD



CLEAR, AK: 25th Anniversary of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS). The reverse utilizes a Statue of Liberty stock die. 200 numbered one ounce silver and 300 brass were struck (more brass may be struck) on 39mm blanks. They are available for \$25 and \$5 respectively from Ron Brown, Box 707, Clear, AK 99704. Please include an additional \$1.50 per order for postage and handling.

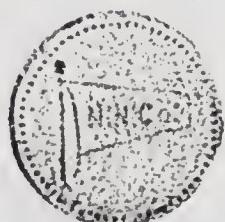


HAINES: Chilkat Restaurant, Good for 1 cup of coffee. Black on wood. (submitted by John Cheramy).

(HAINES): H.B. (Haines Bar, good for 1 drink). Bifacial, gold on blue and white plastic, 39mm. (submitted by John Cheramy).



KETCHIKAN: Moose Lodge, \$1 in trade. Alum., 34mm. (submitted by John Cheramy).



NORTHERN NAVIGATION CO.: Steamer Sarah, sister token to her sister ship, "Susie". Bronze, 21mm. (submitted by Ron Benice, article to follow).

## GOLD OR PAPER CURRENCY?

"A medium of exchange with an equal appeal to gold and paper currency collectors is described as follows by an author discussing the natives near Bettles, Alaska during the winter of 1905-06: "There was no silver and no currency except large bills on the Koyukuk, and we should need money in small sums to buy fish with. So the agent weighed out a number of little packets of gold dust, carefully sealed up in stout writing paper like medicine powders, some worth a dollar, some worth two dollars, the value written on the face, and we found them readily accepted by the natives and very convenient. Two years later I heard of some of these packets, unbroken, still current on the Kobuk."

From "Ten Thousand Miles With a Dog Sled" by Hudson Stuck, 1917. Page 64.

(submitted by John Cheramy)

-----  
LOUIS SPITZ

## The Fraction Bar and Cafe

**The Best of Everything**

**to**

**Eat, Drink and Smoke**

**LOUIS SPITZ, Proprietor**

**FIRST AVENUE**

**Fairbanks, Alaska**

Since Ron Benice mentioned Louis Spitz in his article on Solly's, thought it only fitting to show this ad that he sent in some time ago.

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**H.B. CO. TOKENS: FEEDBACK**

In reference to the three H.B. Co. tokens struck by Wright & Son (of Cincinnati, OH) (ATC&PN, 12/86), it should be mentioned that these cannot be considered to be related to the issues of the Hudsons Bay Co. but are very likely the issue of a local store.

Donald M. Stewart

# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

# COLLECTOR

# POLAR NUMISMATIST

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VOLUME IX, NUMBER 2.

FEBRUARY, 1987.

## ALASKA JACKK 22



Two stores and seven years ago I was leaning on the counter, shooting the breeze with Wil Courtney. Looking out the front window, I noticed this man looking in with a big grin on his face, and spinning a frisbee on the top of his finger. I thought to myself, "Well, they have opened the gates down at Alaska Psychiatric Institute". He proceeded to come into the store, and said, "Are you Dick?" I thought, oh, great, this guy knows me???

Earlier in the day, I was at the post office mailing a package, and the clerk showed me a \$22 bill. It was a fairly neat cut and paste job. It was amusing, to say the least, so I asked the clerk to send the person that gave it to her over to the store if she saw him again. After all, every one should have at least one \$22 bill.

And that is how Alaska Jackk 22 knew who to ask for when he walked

(continued on page 8)

## EDITORIAL

As many of you know, we do not usually have a February issue of ATC&PN. It is usually one of my two months off from the newsletter.

The major reason that you will be receiving an issue this month is that I will require some time off in March or April. Jan and I had applied to adopt another child, and that referral has just come through. In March or April, we will be travelling to Seoul, South Korea to pick up our daughter.

Our little girl's name is Lee Mee Ok, but that will be changed to Rochelle Elaine (Rocky for short). She was born in Seoul on December 26th, 1986 and put up for adoption through Holt Agencies in Seoul, and Western Association of Concerned Adoptive Parents in Seattle. If any of you out there would like to adopt and would like more information, please write and I will send WACAP's address and phone number.

Ever since Kenton has started to go to day care full time, it has no longer been Hanscom's Coin Shop, day care and Korean laundry down at the store. Well, in a couple of months, it will be back to all three, as dad gets the kid during the day. (For those not familiar with the store, or our living arrangements, we do not have water at home, so I do the laundry at the shop! Sure beats the laundromat).

Before we go to Seoul, we will stop in Hong Kong, and see if the bargains there are as great as everyone says they are. Should be quite an experience. We plan to be gone for about two weeks.

I plead guilty to the Alaska Jackk 22 article. I must admit that I had more fun doing that article than any in quite some time. You really had to be in the shop the day Alaska Jackk 22 came in. I showed a rough draft of the article to Wil Courtney, and he immediately started to laugh. He suggested that I run the photo of Alaska Jackk 22. Brought back memories of a unique personality that marches to the beat of a really different drummer.

As always, we are in need of articles, short fillers and items "For the Record."

## RAINIER-GRAND HOTEL

In the October/November, 1986, we ran a rubbing of a Rainier-Grand Hotel token. There is a token from a Rainier-Grand Hotel in Cordova. But Cordova was not the only place to have a Rainier-Grand Hotel. In "Big Pan-Out" by Kathryn Winslow, a story is told of George and Kate Carmack. In 1897, they went outside to Seattle. This trip was financed in part from their share of the take on a claim they had leased out. While in Seattle, they stayed at the Rainier-Grand Hotel, and threw gold coins out the window just to watch the scramble for the money.

Can anyone in the Seattle area find a Wilson and White in the hotel business?

## ADVERTISING

For the first time, ATC&PN will accept advertising on a regular basis, in the following categories.

Collector's ads: buy, sell, trade, mail bid. All ads must be typed, ready to photocopy. We do reserve the right to alter layout to better fit the page.

1 page - \$15                    1/2 page - \$8  
                                    1/4 page - \$5  
1/5 page, business card size, \$15 for  
                                    five months

Commercial advertisers (new products, etc.): advertiser supplied inserts one page - \$25. Copy suitable for photocopying - \$45.

Classified type ads: 50 cents per line (42 characters).

All advertising must be prepaid. We reserve the right to refuse advertising deemed unsuitable.

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Editor - Dick Hanscom

Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick

### Subscription Rates:

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\$8 per year

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\$16 per year

## ALASKA JACKK 22, cont.

into The Coin Shop. But who was Alaska Jackk 22? His drivers licence said he was Alaska Jackk 22! Originally, he was Vincent Fioco of Brooklyn, New York. At the time of his visit, he was 28 years old. He met Love 22 at the University of Arizona, and has since been preaching the gospel of the number 22. Before coming to Alaska, he had travelled from Florida to California in a bus with 22 windows. Not much else to say other than he referred to himself as the "universe's 22nd UFO folk singer".

Wil and I both learned that day that the number 22 is a magical, mystical number, that Love 22 (pictured on the face of the note) was running for president of the US, he would be elected in 1984, and these notes would become legal tender. Making the argument even more convincing for us non-believers was the fact that the numbers 1, 9, 8 and 4 add up to the magical, mystical number of 22! Using the alphabet chart on the face of the note, numerical values are assigned to each letter. Alaska Jackk 22 claimed at the time that 98.5% of the words in the English language add up to 22. And when they don't, you change them, substituting i for y and k for c. Guess I have a koin shop.

The \$22 bill that Alaska Jackk 22 gave me was under the counter glass for a number of years. I finally took it out because I got tired of telling people that it was not for sale. What brings this to mind is that I recently received an inquiry concerning these notes, along with a photocopy of the one in the inquirer's possession. This note, illustrated on the front page, bears a rubber stamp as follows:

LOVE 22 4-Pres.  
Alaska Jackk 22 4-Treas(urer)  
Box 2202  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

The note in my possession does not have this rubber stamp (see below). I had therefore previously considered it just a curiosity. But now this note appears, and we have a genuine Alaskan collectible!



**Alaska Jack 22**

Courtesy Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

(continued on page 10)

## MEDALS OF THE A.Y.P.E.

The following articles are reprinted courtesy of The Numismatist, official publication of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

"COINS" THAT ARE NOT COINS, May, 1909.



(Ed. note: This article examines several of the gold token issues. We will excerpt only that portion related to the tokens of the A.Y.P.E.)

"A recent issue, are very neat gold pieces in comparative size to gold \$1, \$1/2 and \$1/4 pieces, and widely advertised as official coins of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which will open (and be ready) in Seattle June 1. A reply to our inquiry to the Exposition management states that these pieces are not officially recognized by the exposition, but are made by a local jeweler for an exposition souvenir dealer.

Since the literature and advertisements of this souvenir dealer calls these pieces coins and indicates them official, we cannot but believe that some of our worthy numismatic dealers have been deceived or imposed upon. To catalogue or represent them as coins is certainly an imposition on the purchaser.

The pieces under discussion are, in general, superior to any previous emissions in their class and should have a large sale by being correctly called medals or charms. These pieces are of one, one-half and one-quarter penny-weight, respectively, made of twelve carat (500 fine) gold. We have no information that any coin has or will be issued for the Seattle exposition."

OFFICIAL MEDAL OF THE A.Y.P.E., Nov., 1909.



"The Official medal of the Alaska-Yukon-

Pacific Exposition presents on its obverse the official seal of the Exposition, and on its reverse the official seal of the City of Seattle. This medal is of a double official character, as it was not only authorized by the Exposition but was struck by the United States Government in its Treasury Department exhibit at the Exposition. Our government at all notable expositions has, in its Treasury Department exhibits, demonstrated the process of coining by striking medals, which, on account of their official character have been erroneously termed "dollars," or "coins" by some collectors and cataloguers. The law prohibiting the striking of coins, except at a designated mint, prevents actual money coining operations at the Treasury Department's demonstrations at expositions, but the process is illustrated by the striking of medals on regular money coining presses. These medals are not sold by the government, but the privilege of receiving and selling them is usually awarded under competition. Thousands of dollars have been paid for this concession at expositions, and the concessionaire provides the blanks from which the medals are struck. Medals of this character struck at previous expositions, particularly those in silver are now much sought by collectors, and are rapidly advancing in price, \$4 to \$6 each being the auction records for some of them.

The A.Y.P.E. official medal is struck in copper, bronze and coin silver. Those in base metal sell for 25 cents each, and those in silver \$1 each. Many thousand were sold during the exposition, which, after proving a great success, closed this month.

The official concessionaires for this medal are Joseph Mayer and Bros., manufacturing jewelers, of Seattle, Washington. Their advertisement appears in this issue."

N.S.A. IS BUYING.  
IF YOU HAVE TOKENS OR  
MEDALS FOR SALE,  
PLEASE LET US HEAR  
YOU.

P.O. BOX 2832, FAIRBANKS, AK 99707

## ALASKA JACK 22, cont.

What is with this note you might ask? Well, the face bears the face of Love 22, formerly Lawrence E. Wagner. He gave up a career in advertising to wander the country in a converted school bus, selling his \$22 bills at 5 for a \$1. The notes are printed from a master made up of cut and pasted ones, twos and twenties.

Now, Mr. 22 (Love, that is) got in a bit of a jam with the Secret Service, a branch of the Treasury charged with the duty to keep us safe from counterfeiting. It seems that some one passed one of 22's \$22 bills in payment of a \$20 traffic fine, and the clerk of the court accepted it! If memory serves me, all charges were dropped, but Mr. 22 was required to destroy all of his \$22 bills.

And what of Alaska Jackk 22? He went to Honolulu after leaving Fairbanks to spread the word about his friend Love 22, the number 22 and to play frisbee. The last report of his whereabouts in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner placed him in New York, driving a 22 foot school bus. And, he seems to have moved up in the world. He sent the News-Miner a sample of his latest \$22 bill, and it is his perpetually smiling face upon it.

### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SCOTT



The British Royal Mint has been authorized to commemorate a modern Antarctic expedition tracing the path of the tragic Scott expedition of 1910-1912 to the South Pole.

Three explorers, two British and one Canadian, set out on foot to cross the ice fields of the Antarctic. After an exhausting trek, they reach the pole on January 11, 1985.

The medal was designed by Robert Elderton of the Royal Mint. The obverse features Mt. Erebus in the background, the ship "Southern Quest" and above, and airplane which was on standby to retrieve the polar walkers. The three explorers in the foreground represent the old looking at the new.

The reverse features portraits of Scott and Shackleton set against an ice ridge. In the foreground are the three modern explorers, Robert Swain, Roger Mear and Gareth Wood, all pulling sledges.

The medals are 63mm in diameter, and struck in 9 karat gold, sterling silver and toned bronze. The mintages are limited to 100 for the gold and 1000 for the silver, with no limit on the bronze. Prices are \$1175, \$120 and \$35 respectively.

## Rosswog's

Magazines and Leading Daily and Sunday Papers

Eastman Kodak Films and Supplies

Developing and Printing

Alaska Curios and Novelties

SODA FOUNTAIN

SEATTLE ICE CREAM

J. Hungerford-Smith Co's True Fruit Syrups and Crushed Fruits

ROSSWOG'S  
CORDOVA



From "The Pathfinder of Alaska", official organ of the Pioneers of Alaska, May 1924.

# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR



## POLAR NUMISMATIST

NSA Inc. • P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • Subscription \$8.00/year

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 3.

MARCH-APRIL, 1987.

J. N. KILLAS & CO.  
OF PREMIER, B.C.

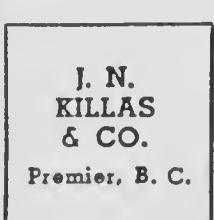
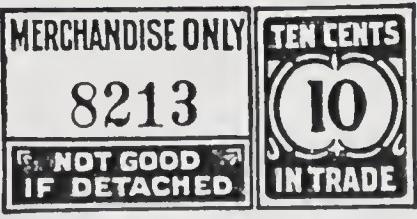
by

Ronald Greene

(all rights reserved)

James N. Killas was a native of the Greek Island of Limnos. At the age of 12, c. 1892, he left his homeland to come to the United States and then came to Canada. He was listed in the 1914 Prince Rupert City directory running a confectionery, at 535 3rd Avenue West, with a partner, J.A. Smith.<sup>1</sup> Subsequent directory listings show him in partnership with Nick Christopher in the Royal Confectionery (1920), then the Royal Confectionery and the De Luxe Confectionery. By 1926 the listing was for the Deluxe Confectionery and the Commodore Cafe. The 1922 Bradstreet's gives the partnership a first class credit rating and a capital of \$10,000 to \$20,000 which would seem to be quite a substantial sum for that period. And is it a coincidence that two sons of a confectioner later went on to become dentists? For many years from 1926 Mr. Killas ran the Commodore Cafe and an ice cream manufactory.

About 1920 the Premier Gold Mining Co. started working their property and established a townsite which came to be known as Premier. The post office was opened on January 1, 1921. Premier was situated some seventeen miles from Stewart, and very close to the Alaska border. The first B.C. Directory listing for the town was 1924. The 1925 issue saw only five names listed but the 1926 issue was more complete and included, "J. Killas & Co. (sic.) conf. tob. pool". The first note of population given in the directories was for 1932 which listed the population at 375.



The mine had established a company store which sold the basic necessities but the mine manager was a Mormon and would not sell such forbidden items as tobacco or coffee. However, he knew that the men would want them so he approached Mr. Killas, whom he knew from Prince Rupert. He liked the manner in which Killas operated and asked him if he would run a confectionery, etc. at Premier.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Killas accepted and opened a store which sold confectioneries, tobacco, canned soup, magazines, watches, radios and other small items. It also contained a soda fountain and pool tables.

Although Mr. Killas operated the Premier store he continued to run his Prince

(Continued on page 13)

## EDITORIAL

As you may have guessed, we have not left for Hong Kong and Seoul yet. We are still waiting for the paperwork to clear U.S. immigration and to clear on the Korean end. Hopefully, this will happen soon, or mom is going to go wacky. Dad, of course is cool as a cucumber! In any case, the next time you receive this newsletter, I should be able to tell you that we have picked up our baby girl and returned to Fairbanks.

Our thanks to Ron Greene for the interesting article on J.N. Killas & Co. Granted, this is not Alaskan, but very close, and worthy of our attention. Something on Stewart, B.C. and its relation to Hyder, Alaska would be of interest, too. You listening Ron and Les?

Karl Ward has kindly submitted to us the wooden nickels of Haines. Guess Karl didn't like my "artwork" when I tried to trace the Chilkat Restaurant.

Seriously, it is information like this that will be impossible to obtain ten years from now. This type of material, while it is not of earth-shattering importance, it is interesting. The best way to keep track of it is to make note of it when it first becomes available. So, as you can see, this is our plea for more items to run in the "For the Record" section (which you will note is absent from this issue).

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Editor - Dick Hanscom

Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick

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1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.	

Classified ads: 50¢/line (42 characters)  
Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

## BINGLE MONEY NOW IN USE AT THE COMMISSARY



(From The Matanuska Valley Pioneer, Vol. I, No. 28; February 27, 1936)

"Bingles in aluminum and brass in the denominations of standard money are now being issued to colonists in amounts equal to their budgetary allowances. They will greatly simplify the matter of keeping accounts, especially as regards the dealings between colonists. Heretofore it has been necessary to make charges against one colonist and credit another for such things as direct milk purchases and the like. Now the bingle will be a medium of exchange directly between the parties concerned.

In spite of the fact that only a colonist can use the bingles for purchases at the trading post it is very probable that they will become "Matanuska Valley Money" before long. Already one taxi man has offered to accept them for his service."

(From The Matanuska Valley Pioneer, Vol. I, No. 44-45; June 25, 1936)

### PUHL AND ECKERT ARE FIRST COLONISTS TO GO ON THEIR OWN

"Virgil Eckert and Joe Puhl of Tracts 99 and 100 walked into the office of Manager Sheely yesterday and declared themselves independent of their bingle and clothing credit allowance. From now on, they say, they will be paying cash and will diminish their debt rather than increase it."

We have recently purchased Vol. I, No. 1 through Vol. I, No. 50, lacking four issues. This bound volume will be offered for sale at a later date.

### THE PALMER CAFE

In the July 23, 1936 issue of The Matanuska Valley Pioneer is an add for The Palmer Cafe. In this ad is offered \$10 meal tickets for \$9.50. Anyone seen one???

Rupert business. He had various managers run the Premier store until the mine and town shut down in mid 1948. When after about 18 months the mine resumed operation Killas reopened the Premier store for a couple more years. The town's post office which was also reopened in December 1949 was closed for good in May 1954.

The author interviewed one son, Dr. Harry J. Killas, who worked at the store during the reopened period. He was familiar with the paper tickets, but not with the token. The tickets came in booklets of \$5.00 which contained tickets of 5 cents (blue on yellow), 10 cents (blue on light blue) and 25 cents (blue on pink) denominations. Most miners came into the camp dead broke and they were allowed to sign up for a book of tickets which could be used in the confectionery. The booklet would then be deducted from their first pay. There was a limitation on the number of booklets that one could sign up for as an advance between pays.

The token, made of aluminum, would appear to have been used earlier, possibly even from the 1920's.

Following the Second World War, Mr. Killas retired to Vancouver, where he passed away c. 1963, aged 83.

1. The listing is as Killas.
2. The date is not certain. It could have been earlier than 1926 as the directories were not always current in the more remote parts of the province.

#### MARGOT'S KLONDYKE

The following is reprinted courtesy of The Numismatist, official publication of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

#### TOKEN FROM THE KLONDIKE, December, 1945.



Being acutely aware of the dormant interest in tokens, we apologize for our enthusiasm over this little one from the Klondike.

The obverse shows an elderly veiled head of Queen Victoria to left. The re-

verse reads: "MARGOT'S 2D. KLONDIKE. ROYAL SOVEREIGN WHISKY." It is neatly designed, and struck in copper.

Further than that we know nothing. The Klondike gold-rush began in 1896 and as Queen Victoria died in 1901, we can suppose it was issued sometime between those two dates. We can further assume that Margot sold whisky; that his place of business was in the Klondike region; and that he recommended Royal Sovereign Whisky to his thirsty customers.

We are not so sure that the denomination is two pence. Small change was highly unpopular in the Klondike during the gold-rush, and furthermore, it is illogical to suppose that a token based on the English pound would be issued for circulation in a region where money was figured in dollars and cents. The 2D might mean two dram. A dram being "a small drink of liquor," it is unlikely that the miners would order less than a double shot.

#### TOKEN OF MARGOT'S KLONDIKE, July, 1946.

(Excerpt of a letter written to the author of the above article.)

Dear Mr. Mosher:

I was much interested in the "Margot's Klondyke" token illustrated in the December, 1945 issue of THE NUMISMATIST, and have tried, so far unsuccessfully, to find a record of it.

I cannot quite agree with your assumption that Margot's place of business was necessarily in the Klondike. I think it more likely that Margot was the proprietor of one of the many "Klondyke Saloons." "The Klondyke" was a universally popular name for saloons and gambling houses, especially those established between the gold rush and the turn of the century. It seems very probable that this check was used in some part of the British Empire where money of the British system was current.

If I were to start out with a real thirst to look for Margot's Klondyke, I believe I would have just as much luck by starting for Australia as for the Canadian Northwest.

Cordially yours, Howard J. Kurth  
Schenectady, N.Y.

## HAINES WOODEN NICKELS

Unless noted, printing is in black, and the establishment is still operating.



Totem Bowl, ceased operations about 10 years ago.



Haines Bills Club, Good for one drink. Became an Elks club in 1982.



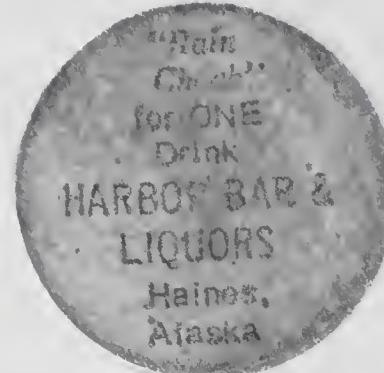
The Rip-Tide Bar, good for 1 drink. Ownership changed a couple of years ago and is now the Fogcutter Bar.



The Old City Hall and Firehouse, 5% off. This establishment was in business for about 10 days. The owner opened and at almost the same time was called to a job out of town and moved from here.



Marty's Pioneer Bar, good for 1 drink.



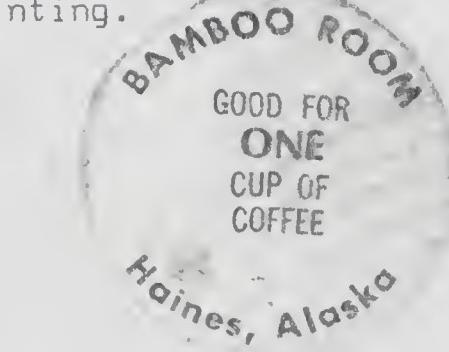
Harbor Bar & Liquors, "Rain Check" for one drink.



American Legion Post 12, good for one free drink.



Helen's Shop, good for \$1.00 in trade, red printing.



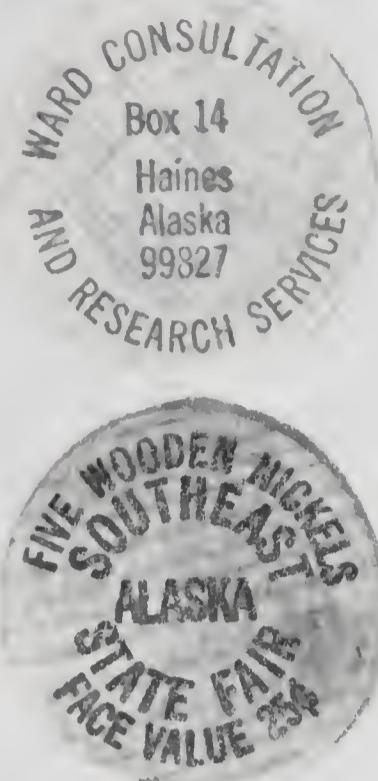
Bamboo Room, good for one cup of coffee.



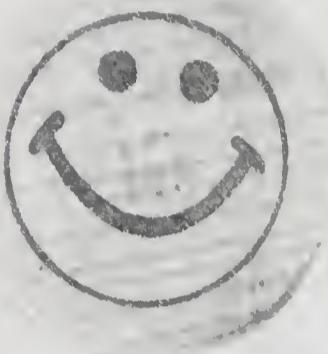
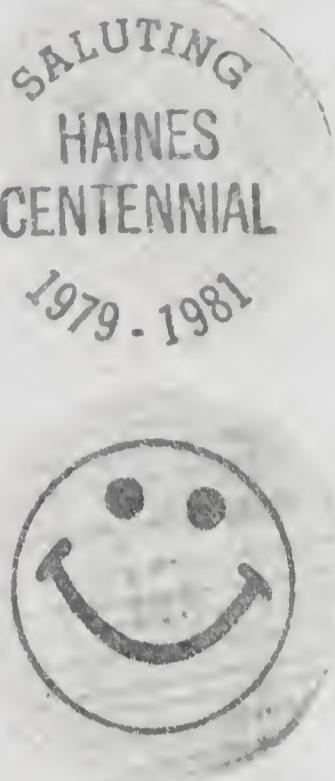
Chilkat Restaurant, good for 1 cup of coffee.

Ward Consultation and Research Service, green ink. Issued 1979, commemorating Haines Centennial. (Illustrated at the top of the next page.)

HAINES WOODEN NICKELS, cont.



Southeast Alaska State Fair, face value 25¢. In use for a number of years.



Post Exchange, good for 1 cup of coffee. First appeared 1983.



Dalton Trail, Troop 70, Fort A.P. Hill, red printing. first appeared 1985.

A word about the "H.B." piece mentioned on page 5 of the January issue of ATC&PN. I am unaware of any plastic pieces of recent date from out locality. I doubt if it comes from Haines. I have lived here for 40 years and do not recall a "Haines Bar".

(Submitted by Karl Ward)

ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR  
& POLAR NUMISMATIST  
IS ACCEPTING ADVERTISING  
WRITE FOR OUR RATES

HAINES CENTENNIAL SILVER MEDAL

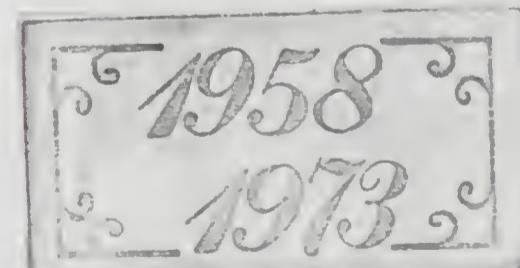
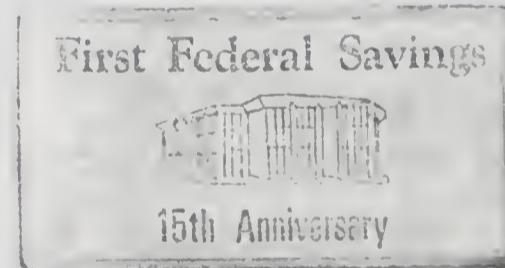


Above is illustrated the 1979-81 trade dollar commemorating the Centennial of Haines, AK.

We have recently seen a one ounce silver medal similar to the above. The size of the silver medal was standard one ounce silver size (about 39mm). The design was the same as the trade dollar. Replacing "Good for one dollar in trade ...." was "Commemorative one ounce fine silver". It appeared that the two portraits were the same size as on the trade dollar (to save on engraving costs?), leaving a much larger field area. The reverse was the same, but the engraving was enlarged to fit in a larger area. There were minor differences due to the separate engraving.

Maybe Karl Ward can inform us as to how many were made!

- - - - - FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS



Above is a bar, we assume silver, weighing in at about .55 oz. First Federal Savings is now Arctic First Federal Savings & Loan. The building depicted is on the corner of Cushman and Gaffney in Fairbanks. Formerly based in Fairbanks, their main office is now in Anchorage.

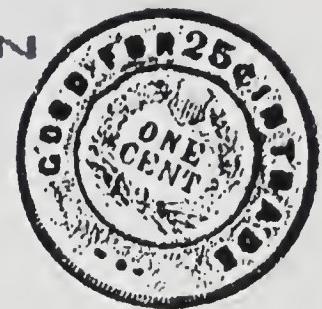
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VOLUME IX, NUMBER 4.

MAY, 1987.



## THE MONTE CARLO SALOON OF DAWSON, Y.T.

by  
Ralph R. Burry, FCNRS



The first Klondike stampede was from Forty Mile on the Yukon River in the fall of 1896. Among those who made the rush was a fellow by the name of Jack Smith. He was at Forty Mile at the time, broke, and with a troupe of variety show girls on his hands, and it was hard for him to clothe and feed them. Hearing of the gold strike, he lost no time poling his boat up the Yukon River, being in time when he got to Discovery on Bonanza Creek to stake a claim. In later years, this claim paid off quite handsomely to set him up in the business for which he was suited.

When the news of this strike reached Circle City, Alaska, on the Yukon River, there was another stampede from there. With this bunch of stampeders came a William F. Gates, who got lots of notoriety throughout the U.S. as "Swiftwater" Bill Gates, a maker and spender of fabulous fortunes later, but at the time of the news of the strike, he was a bull cook in a roadhouse in Circle City.

Jack Smith and William F. Gates became great friends as they worked their claims. Jack Smith wasn't a miner. He was a showman, and after a year or so, he sold his claim for \$155,000 and went into the saloon business. He bought the cabin home of Indian Chief Isaacs of the local tribe, which was situated a mile or so down the river from Dawson City Townsite, and called it the Bonanza Saloon. As the gold mining boomed and Dawson City grew, Jack Smith moved up and opened the first variety theater in connection with a dance hall, saloon, and gambling establishment, which he called "The Monte Carlo". The first Monte Carlo was housed under canvas and among Jack Smith's employees was an Alex Pantages, who became wealthy and famous as the foremost theater magnate of the U.S. and Canada.

Jack Smith told his old friend "Swiftwater" Bill Gates about his plans to build a large permanent building for The Monte Carlo, and Bill Gates said that would be an easier way of finding gold in Dawson. He sold his shares in No. 13 Eldorado and went into partnership with Jack Smith in building the new Monte Carlo. The building was at 111 First Ave. The new Monte Carlo became the most famous of its kind in the Klondike. It was built in the spring and summer of 1897, before the stampede from the outside started for the Klondike.

The two partners soon discovered there was no liquor to be had for the saloon and no girls available for the variety show and dance hall, as Jack's troupe had broken up and scattered. There was only one thing to do, so Swiftwater Bill Gates took a sizable sum of money from the company funds and went out to the U.S. to gather a troupe

continued on page 18

## EDITORIAL

Since this issue is very late, you probably realize that we have made our trip to Asia! We returned home with our new baby girl on May 3rd. Having the baby at the store is slowing my work schedule some, but once things get back to normal, maintaining the publishing schedule for ATC&PN should be no problem. Hope to have the June issue out sometime around the 7th of June. For those of you who subscribe to Alaskan Znachki Bulletin, issue #4 should be in the mail about the first of June.

Hong Kong and Korea were interesting. We enjoyed Korea more than Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, we bought a video camera that is compatible with systems in Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain, but will not work here (different TV signals). Does anyone out there know if there is a converter available?

While on the trip, I had made a personal medal. The price was right, and delivery was 5 days - sort of while you wait! I plan on going back this fall, and have the remaining 4 large medals struck, at a substantial savings. These will be the Greek Church at Sitka, harbor scenes of Petersburg and Wrangell, and Taku Glacier near Juneau. A pre-issue discount for ordering all four medals will be offered. Watch future issues for information.

While in Hong Kong, we did talk to a publisher about our stocks and bonds book. With a lot of luck, it will be out before the first of the year.

We would like to thank Ralph Burry for the article on The Monte Carlo of Dawson. We try not to run articles by the same author too close together, but this one was the easiest to get ready for this issue.

Jerry Remick, our Canadian correspondent is well represented in this issue. His article on the Association of Personalized Medal Issuers is timely for us, as our medal is ready. See page 19.

Well, guess that is all for this month. Keep those cards and letters coming (read that articles, space-filers, and items For the Record).

## 1987 WHITEHORSE TRADE DOLLAR



Target Downtown, a Whitehorse business group of downtown merchants, has released a 1987 trade dollar valid in Whitehorse until September 30, 1987.

Ms. Catharine Arkley designed both sides of the 1987 trade dollar. The wheel of a railway engine is featured on the obverse side. This wheel represents the "second" highway of northern transportation. Prior to the opening of the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, the only method of transporting people and freight was over the coastal passes or on the rivers on a seasonal basis. The coming of the railroad made year-round transportation possible. The City of Whitehorse logo is shown on the reverse side.

The Sherritt Mint struck an initial mintage of 5,000 pieces on 33mm nickel bonded steel blanks. A second mintage of 5,000 pieces is planned for June. See the order blank on the last page!

-Jerry Remick

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## THE MONTE CARLO, cont.

and also a good stock of whisky for the bar. With all these accessories, the Monte Carlo gambling palace could take care of itself. Swiftwater Bill came out in the fall of 1897 and rushed to San Francisco and rented a suite in the Palace Hotel, and live as a king, flinging his gold dust left and right, saying there was lots more of it where he came from. He dressed in silk hats and Prince Albert coats, and spent gold dust like water, making friends in high places along the way. Then suddenly, the mogul, Swiftwater Bill Gates found himself penniless and broke.

His yarns about the Klondike had interested one wealthy man by the name of Dr. Wolf. Dr. Wolf loaned Swiftwater Bill \$20,000 on a promise that he would pay it back, double, in ninety days. With this money, Swiftwater Bill got his troupe of beauties and a big cargo of whisky, and started north. Just before he left San Francisco, he talked Dr. Wolf into investing in a supply and transportation company in the Klondike, so the two men left for the north together.

When the ice melted in the spring, Swiftwater Bill and his troupe of girls, along with his big shipment of whisky left Alaska for the Monte Carlo in Dawson City. The news of this coming flashed into Dawson, and Swiftwater Bill, liking to be in the limelight, dressed in his silk hat and Prince Albert coat, sat on a big barrel of whisky on the front deck of the river boat as it puffed into Dawson. The river banks were lined for blocks waiting for the girls and the whisky to come in.

Dr. Wolf started worrying about his loan to Gates. The people of Dawson, knowing Swiftwater Bill, said as soon as he got his hands on loaned money he never paid it back. Dr. Wolf confronted Bill Gates and caused quite a scene. Bill promised to pay Dr. Wolf in a few hours. True to his word, Bill gave Dr. Wolf \$20,000, with no interest. Dr. Wolf took the money gladly and booked passage back to the states right away. He was glad to get off as easy as he did.

Jack Smith found out that Bill Gates was a

poor risk as a partner, so he bought out Bill Gates' interest in the now very successful Monte Carlo. He was very pleased to be the sole owner of such a good investment. Swiftwater Bill Gates was soon mixed up in other adventures, some good and some bad. The Monte Carlo became the most famous emporium of pleasure in the Yukon.

By tracing the history of the Monte Carlo through the directories, we find it burned down during the terrible Dawson City fire of 1900, but was rebuilt again. In 1901, the Monte Carlo was owned by a Lloyd Harrison and Company. The Monte Carlo was listed as a saloon up to 1906 and owned at the time by Thomas O'Brien of the O'Brien Brewing and Malting Company of Dawson, Y.T. In the directory of 1907-08 (Polk), the Monte Carlo is not listed. The original building is still standing, and many other businesses have used it, but I'm sure the ghosts of Swiftwater Bill, Jack Smith and all the girls are still hanging around for the last fling.

There is only one token attributed to The Monte Carlo saloon in Dawson. It is a U.S. cent (the Indian type, with various dates) encased in an aluminum band. These tokens were made by Meyer of Seattle who were makers of many token of the northwest.

### Description of the token:

Obverse: The Monte Carlo/Dawson

Reverse: Good for 25¢ in trade

Aluminum, with encased cent, round, 31mm

### Acknowledgments:

1. The Klondike Nugget Story, by R. A. Bankson (A story of the first newspaper in Dawson, and its editor, Eugene C. Allen.)
  2. Yukon Trade Tokens by Scott Simpson and Leslie C. Hill.
  3. Leslie C. Hill for rubbings of The Monte Carlo token.
  4. Don M. Stewart for directory research.
- - - - -

### N.S.A. IS PLANNING A NEW PRICE LIST

(but don't hold your breath!)

WE NEED TO BUY TOKENS & MEDALS

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU

# THE ASSOCIATION OF PERSONALIZED MEDAL ISSUERS



The Association of Personalized Medal Issuers (APMI), was founded on December 8, 1984 by Jerry Remick. Membership is open to anybody interested in issuing or collecting personalized medals. APMI members range in age from 18 to our enthusiastic Walter Loudon at 87. The Association has no officers, no rules or constitution and no official dues. Members make a yearly contribution of \$5 or more to pay for the Newsletter entitled "The Personalized Medalist".

Four illustrated quarterly newsletters of from 10 to 25 pages were issued in 1985 and 1986, and four are planned for 1987. Biographies of members and their photographs, as well as news of members' new issues of medals and new dies are featured in each newsletter. A check list of medals issued by each APMI member including mintage and metal was issued in January, 1986.

At present, there are 65 members, of which 39 have personal reverse dies for 38mm medals. The dies were cut by Pressed Metal Products, 505 Alexander St., Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6A 1C8. Most APMI members have inscriptions for reverse dies which include their name, home town, a phrase on what they collect and perhaps a small maple leaf and/or fleur de lys. Seven members have created pictorial reverse dies with their name and home town, generally around the outer part and the design in the center; four of these feature family arms.

Many picture or obverse dies are available for use by APMI members, including yearly dies for Christmas, Hanukkah, Canada Day, Quebec Day, CNA Convention and the ANA Convention. Dies are available with Canadian and American club and association logos. Members of these organiza-

tions can use these dies only with written permission from the organization.

For further details, or a listing of dies available for use, write to Jerry Remick, Box 9183, Ste Foy, Quebec, Canada G1V 4B1.

## PERSONALIZED MEDAL



I had been planning on having Pressed Metal Products make a personal medal for me, but I had not been able to justify the expense. I was thinking of ordering my medal from them just before leaving on the trip. Decided not to, just in case I needed the money on the trip. Don't get me wrong, PMP has very reasonable prices for this type of product, especially for items in small quantities.

While overseas, I was walking down the street of a shopping district, and there was a shop selling "souvenirs". Not your usual run of the mill souvenirs, but medals, badges, plaques, all made to order. I walked in and discussed the production of 100 medals, was given a quote for dies and medals, and told that I could pick them up in seven days. Sorry, leaving in five days. Ok, they'll be ready!

And they were! These were produced from my rough sketches and rubbings of the tokens, and a photocopy of the NLG logo.

Of course, the question of price comes to mind. I will say that the savings were substantial, and no more. You cannot expect a Canadian or U.S. firm to be price competitive with an Asian producer. I can now afford to make a medal for almost any occasion I wish, and maybe even a series of them!

If you would like one of these medals, please use the order blank attached to the last page.

FOR THE RECORD



FAIRBANKS: Alaska Dairies Historical Society, annual plastic token. Black on white. Available for \$1 and SASE from Wil Courtney, P.O. Box 1106, Fairbanks, AK 99707.



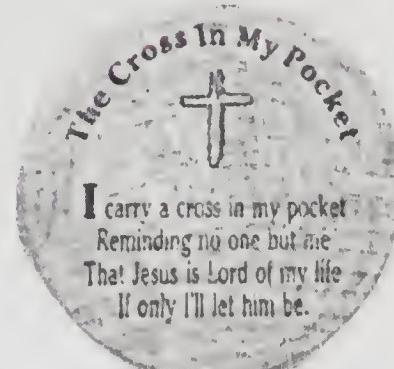
FAIRBANKS: Northern Hotel Pool Room, 50¢ in merchandise. Bimetal, brass with aluminum center, 28mm (submitted by Lew Egnew).



FAIRBANKS: Pizza Pub, 5 free video games. Black on wood. (submitted by Wil Courtney).



HAINES: Heller & Co., 12 1/2¢ in trade. Listed but not illustrated (B-7a) (submitted by Lew Egnew).



HAINES: Haines Presbyterian Church, Lenten Token. A stock issue by a firm that sells religious items. Purple on wood. (submitted by Karl Ward).



HYDER, AK: The McDonnell Hotel, 12 1/2¢ in trade. Previously reported with a poor rubbing.



SITKA: Rock Rack, Free record or tape with \$1.00 in Rock Rack wooden nickels. Black on wood (submitted by Marilyn Taranoff).

-----  
PLACER MINERS OF ALASKA, INC.



The Placer Miners of Alaska, Inc. has issued a 1 ounce silver medal. Funds from the sale of these medals are used to further the goals of the organization which include:

- Increase the general knowledge of placer mining.
- Educate the general public to the necessity of a viable mining industry.
- Promote the general welfare and evaluate the standards of the mining industry.
- Promote and encourage the development of Alaskan resources.
- Protect the individual's rights as per the U.S. Constitution and the 1872 Mining Law.

The obverse of the medal depicts a miner using a hydraulic "Giant" to wash overburden away to expose the gold bearing gravel. The reverse lists placer strikes in Alaska, the Klondike and British Columbia.

Ordering information on the order blank below.



NSA Inc. • P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • Subscription \$8.00/year

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 5.

JUNE, 1987.

## A NEW ALASKA/YUKON TOKEN DISCOVERY

by

Ronald J. Benice



A second token issued for a Yukon River steamboat has been discovered and is in the author's collection -- a bronze piece issued by the Northern Navigation Company for their steamer "Sarah". The other known N.N. Co. token is for their steamer "Susie". This token is also illustrated above. Both ships plied the Yukon River (and the Bering Sea) between Dawson and Nome; hence the tokens qualify for both Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

The steamer Sarah was constructed in Jeffersonville, Indiana in 1897 and assembled in Unalaska, Alaska in 1898 for the Alaska Commercial Company. It was named after the wife of Louis Sloss, a company official. It was a wood-burning Mississippi River-type sternwheeler exactly the same as the Susie. It was 223 feet long, 42 feet wide and had a gross tonnage of 1211. On its first journey it carried goldseekers up the Yukon and arrived in Dawson on September 22, 1898.

In 1901, Alaska Commercial Co. merged and reorganized and the steamers were subsequently operated by the Northern Navigation Company. They were the plushest of the Yukon River boats. In 1914, competition from the White Pass and Yukon Railway put an end to the Dawson-Nome-St. Michael runs and the steamers were sold and used on shorter runs until 1918. In 1927 the Sarah was sold to a Los Angeles company for use as a cold storage plant. It was subsequently dismantled for its wood and parts.

There was a third matching sternwheeler, the Hannah. Will any of her tokens surface???

### References:

William S. Hanable, "Floating Palaces on the Yukon", The Alaska Journal, Winter 1985, pages 33-38.

Melody Webb, "Steamboats on the Yukon River", The Alaska Journal, Summer 1985, pages 21-29

## EDITORIAL

As I sit here and type this, it is 2:30 AM. Some will say "insomnia". Others will say "dedication". Dedication gets it, but not to the newsletter. There is a "round the clock", one pitch, softball tournament. Our last game was a 15 minutes before midnight, and our next one is at 5:45 AM. No sense going home and trying to sleep.

Our thanks to Ron Benice for the article on the front page. Ron wanted us to use a photo of the Sarah. Unfortunately, there was not room. Fortunately, there was not room, because Dick forgot to arrange for permission to use it.

We have been running a bit of B.C. token information lately. These are from towns very close to Alaska. We'll say they are "almost" Alaska. I'd like to see an article on a B.C. token that would "almost" be Yukon - the Hyland and Belfry trader tokens from Liard Post, now Lower Post, just a couple of miles from the Yukon boarder. John Cheramy of Victoria, B.C. has a couple of these in his latest mail bid sale.

In the future months we will try to broaden our scope to include some Antarctic medals, like the Charcot one in this issue. While not of interest to everyone, this should at least provide a diversion, not to mention filling space.

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Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist is a publication of Numismatic Services of Alaska, Inc. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their permission.

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Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick

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### 1987 GAMBO, NEWFOUNDLAND TRADE DOLLARS



The town of Gambo, Newfoundland has issued a 1987 trade dollar to mark the 25th anniversary of the town's incorporation, which took place in 1962. Gambo originally consisted of the three communities of Gambo, Dark Cove and Middle Brook. In 1981, the last two communities became part of Gambo.

Gambo's coat of arms is featured on the obverse. The town's coat of arms, as pictured on the trade dollar, was designed by International Coat of Arms, Heraldic House Ltd., 504 Yonge St., Toronto. A cog wheel and fir tree, symbolizing the timber industry in Gambo, is shown near the top of the shield in the coat of arms. The three crosses denote the three Christian communities of Gambo, Middle Brook and Dark Cove. The wavy bands represent the community and the close proximity of the ocean, from whence the first settlers came. A Micmac Indian, with a cross in his hand, is depicted above the shield. The motto "Tres in Uno" may be translated "Three Communities in One". The Town Council adopted this coat of arms in 1974.

The Gambo Hotel is pictured on the reverse. Construction of the Gambo Hotel was complete in 1903 by the owner, Mr. J. J. Murphy. The hotel was widely used, since Gambo was a stop-over for people traveling to and from various island and communities in Bonavista North, and also during the 1940's, when Armed Forces were stationed there. The Post, Telegraph and Fisheries Office were also located in the hotel until 1960.

The Sherritt Mint struck 5,000 specimens on nickel bonded steel blanks. These are available for \$1.50 U.S. cash or \$2.50 U.S. check, postpaid from the Town of Gambo, Attn. Mr. Melvin L. Saunders, P.O. Box 250, Gambo, Newfoundland, Canada, A0G 1T0.

-Jerry Remick

## THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY

(Reprinted courtesy of The Numismatist, official publication of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.)

The Hudson Bay Company was undoubtedly the first chain store operation on the North American continent. A group of Englishmen, realizing the great untapped wealth in furs in the Great Lakes area, banded together to form this company under a charter granted them by King Charles II in 1670. This charter bestowed upon them the sole right of trade on land and water in the vast Hudson Bay area encompassing Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and part of Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

The first trading post was on the shore of the Bay, and trappers were faced with a long strenuous journey to deliver their furs, traveling through dense forest and over many waterways, generally in adverse weather condition. Many furs were lost or abandoned because of the hazardous travel and this, coupled with the advent of competition with other companies being formed inland, prompted the Hudson Bay Company to expand into a network or chain of trading posts.

At the trading post, the trappers collected many and various items for their furs. Trade blankets, beads, cloth, tobacco, fish hooks, knives and guns were items coveted by the Indians. The beaver skin was probably the most popular and abundant pelt at the beginning of such trade and it became and remained, even when almost extinct as a trade item, the basis of value for all commodities until about 1820. This standard was known as "Made Beaver" and the items on the shelves in the trading posts were priced with made-beaver values. If the trapper did not spend all of the exchange due him for his goods, tokens were issued that were equal to one, 1/2, 1/4 or 1/8 made beaver. These and Hudson Bay notes are the numismatic link with the northwest fur trade.

-Geneva Karlson, Librarian

## NEW STEWART, B.C. TOKEN UNEARTHED

Beads, large Milk .....	1/2 lb. for 1	Made Beaver
Beads of colours .....	1/2 lb. for 1	Made Beaver
Kettles, brass of all sizes .....	1 for 1	Made Beaver
Powder .....	1 lb. for 1	Made Beaver
Shot .....	4 lbs. for 1	Made Beaver
Sugar .....	2 lbs for 1	Made Beaver
Tobacco, Brazil .....	1/2 lbs. for 1	Made Beaver
Blankets .....	1 for 6 or 7	Made Beaver
Broad Cloth .....	1 yd. for 2 or 3	Made Beaver
Fish hooks .....	10 or 20 for 1	Made Beaver
Fire Steels .....	4 for 1	Made Beaver
Guns, 4 ft .....	1 for 12 to 14	Made Beaver
Guns, 3 1/2 ft .....	1 for 11 to 14	Made Beaver
Pistols .....	1 for 4 or 7	Made Beaver
Hatchets .....	2 for 1	Made Beaver
Ice Chances .....	2 for 1	Made Beaver
Knives .....	8 for 1	Made Beaver
Needles .....	12 for 1	Made Beaver

The variations on some items you will note, have been inserted to show the agreed trading values at different posts. Fish hooks for instance were traded at the rate of 10, 14, or 20 per made beaver at three different posts. Likewise 3 ft. guns were traded for 10 or 14 made beaver each, and so on. These same articles could also be purchased with fox, mink, otter, muskrat or other skins in proportion to their trade value based on a made beaver. Blankets and beads were very popular. Beads replaced the porcupine quills used in decorating clothes. Quills had to be clipped to be useable and in clipping, the sharp, barbed points often flew about, thus blinding a squaw occasionally.



Stewart is located approximately 120 miles north of Prince Rupert at the head of the Portland Canal, 6 miles from Hyder, Alaska, and has served as a supply center for the mines in the district from the turn of the century until the present time.

A 50¢ token of the Welcome Club has been dug up, and according to Ron Greene, a smaller token may also have been used as 2 dies were known to have been in the stock of a Seattle token stamping firm. This would likely have been for a 25¢ token as the diameter was 24mm.

So far, we have been unable to learn when the club was in operation; directories seldom list clubs or other organizations unless by way of advertising. When prohibition was gradually lifted in B.C. in 1921 a number of small hotels were erected with beer parlors, just across the border from Hyder, AK. to cater to the thirsts of the residents there. The place was referred to as Hyder, B.C. It has been suggested to me that these tokens may have been used there, between 1921 and 1933, when prohibition was lifted in the USA. We have no reliable information on this rumor as yet.

The newly discovered token is aluminum, round, and 31mm.

-Leslie C. Hill

I will trade R7 and R8 Alaska Tokens for Yukon Territory tokens, Alaska scrip and Alaska National Bank Notes.

Ron Benice

25 Stewart Place, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

914-666-4414

J.B. CHARCOT: POLAR EXPLORER



N.d. (early 20th Century). J.B. Charcot, Polar Explorer. 68mm, silver, by Paul Richer/Em. Lindauer. Rare and important. EF. (Photo) (\$300-600)

The above item was offered for sale in the NASCA sale of May 3, 1987, with the following description:

"Bust right, interesting character study by Richer/heavily rigged 3 masted ship, tall iceberg in background. EXPEDITIONS POLAIRES FRANÇAISES.

Charcot was one of the more romantic figures in the much-honored tradition of French Geographers. The matchup between his daring personality and the dangerous, ice-protected worlds is most tellingly described by the name of his ship, the "Pourquoi Pas?" (The "Why Not?") While doubtless following the lead of Fridtjof Nansen, it is not hard to imagine him in-

spiring the likes of recent French heroes of Science, like Jacques Cousteau.

The portrait by Richer is perhaps subtly punning. Showing a fringe of hair above and behind the ear, Charcot's bald top is not smooth, but offers a shadowy topography of veins, wrinkles and bumps, a parody, intended or not, of the barren physiognomy of Earth's topmost region.

While there are enough collectors of explorers/geographers, and some devotees of Polar Numismatics, this is also a superb ship medal."

J.B. Charcot was a French physician and scientist. He led 2 expeditions to the Antarctic. The first, on the ship "Français" was from 1903 to 1905, with the party wintering at Wandel Island during the southern winter of 1904. The second expedition left France in August of 1908. This time they wintered at Petermann Island. This was close enough to Wandel Island, allowing a comparison of the scientific records of this expedition with the first. The second expedition returned to France in 1910.

"Geographic Names of the Antarctic", U.S. Government Printing Office, indicates that both of these islands are in the northeast part of the Wilhelm Archipelago, just north of the Antarctic Circle off the Antarctic Peninsula that stretches north toward the tip of South America. This reference refers to Wandel Island as Booth Island, a name that predates Wandel Island.

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### ISLES KERGUELEN



The Kerguelen Islands are sub-antarctic islands in the Indian Ocean. They are a French possession, administered as part of the French Southern and Antarctic Territories. The above piece was made in 1981 for Fred R. Zinkann by Wendells in Minneapolis. They are 23mm, and struck in tungsten! Only 3 pieces were made because the die broke (tungsten is hard).

## FOR THE RECORD

CHOMLY, AK: Alaska Pacific Fisheries, \$1 I/T. Alum.

HAINES: Haines Pkg. Co., 10¢ I/T, Alum.

MCLEANS ARM, AK: Alaska Consolidated Canneries Inc. 50¢ I/T, Alum.

PYBUS BAY, AK: Alaska Pacific Fisheries, 5¢, 10¢ and \$1 I/T, Alum.

ROSE INLET, AK: Southern Alaska Canning Co., 5¢ and \$1 I/T, Alum.

SAGINAW BAY, AK: Alaska Consolidated Canneries Inc. 50¢ and \$1 I/T, Alum.

(YES BAY, AK): Alaska Pacific Fisheries, 10¢ I/T, Alum.

The above were in a recent mail bid sale. We do not have rubbings at this time.



DYEA, AK: H & W, 12 1/2¢ I/M. 21mm, Alum. We presume H & W was for Healy and Wilson. (submitted by Harold Fossum).



FAIRBANKS: Frank Brido's Grocery, Good for 1 Loaf of Bread. 30mm, Alum. (submitted by Alan Weinberg).



ALASKA NORTHERN RAILWAY CO.: Brass fob/tag, oval, 49mm x 41mm. This item will appear in Stephen Alpert's Mail Bid Sale #28, scheduled for September, 1987.



(MAVERICK): Co. E, 7th Inf. Pool, 5¢ I/T, 20mm, Alum. Company E, 7th Infantry was stationed at Chilkoot Barracks (now part of Haines) in 1937, and probably other years before and after (submitted by W.E. Nickell).



**STATE EMPLOYEES'  
\$ AT WORK — APEA**

STICKERS: Stickers found on \$1 bills in Fairbanks. Like all Alaska, Fairbanks is faced with increasing taxation or cutting salaries, positions or services. The teachers and public employees at least had the good sense to put these on \$1, not \$100's. The Teacher Dollars blue and red on white, while the APEA is red on white.

### 1987 WABASH, NFLD. TRADE DOLLAR

The iron mining town of Wabash, situated in the southern part of Labrador, Newfoundland near the border of Quebec, has released a 1987 trade dollar to mark its 25th anniversary this year.

The town's crest is featured on one side. A rabbit, seated on its hind part, is shown on the other side (an illustration was not available at press time).

Sherritt Mint struck 10,000 specimens on 33 mm nickel bonded steel blanks. My two letters of inquiry on this piece to the issuers in Wabash remain unanswered. Specimens are available at \$1.90 postpaid from Jim Quinn, Box 291, Newcastle, New Brunswick, Canada, E1V 3M4.

-Jerry Remick

### VALDEZ — NIZINA

The appearance of two specimens of the 40¢ token (B-12b) at auction indicates that this is probably no longer an R-8 token. Collectors may wish to keep this in mind for future bidding.



## THE GAMBELL TOKEN

by  
 Phares O. Sigler

(Reprinted courtesy of The Numismatist, May 1946,  
 official publication of the American  
 Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade  
 Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903)

All numismatists have a secret yearning to own an extremely rare coin, discover some "unpublished" coin or token or do something equally unusual from a numismatic standpoint. Like many of our goals, however, they are seldom attained, but occasionally, through the intervention of fate, success comes when, and where, it is least expected.

On the 13th day of September last year, I was in Nome, Alaska, and had an opportunity to fly in a high PBY Navy patrol plane to St. Lawrence Island located in the Bering Sea about forty miles from Siberia. After an uneventful trip of one and one-half hours, seated in a large glass "blister" which allowed an unobstructed vision of the beautiful Arctic sky and ocean, we alighted in a lagoon near the outskirts of Gambell, one of the two native villages on the Island.

A group of over a hundred Eskimo men, women and children, in their colorful but practical garments, lined the shore to greet us. Knowing that an ancient village, Kukulik, has been recently discovered on the Island, inquiry concerning old Eskimo relics recovered soon brought forth many pieces which were shyly offered for examination and sale, as well as several invitations to visit the well built frame houses in which the natives lived when not out of the village on hunting or fishing trips, to see specimens stored there.

While visiting in one of these homes, the native owner reached into his purse to make change for an item purchased and exposed to view a small round aluminum piece resembling a tax token. Upon a more careful examination it was found to be a one cent trade token issued by the Reindeer Commercial Company of Gambell. Needless to say it was quickly purchased, but after again taking up the trail of the relics, it was soon forgotten.

Upon returning to Nome, I discovered that I had committed the one unpardonable numismatic sin - I had collected an "unpublished" token but had failed to obtain any facts concerning its issue. It did not good to try to salve my conscience by the argument that the quest of antiques justified the oversight. Immediate inquiry at the Nome

Continued on page 28

## EDITORIAL

Well, this issue is once again late in getting into the mail. I will have it done tomorrow, but it will be at least 5 days before I can photocopy and mail it. Will once again try to get caught up next month. Have had a terrible lack of ambition lately.

This month, we bring you an article that nicely describes the "thrill of discovery". Most token collectors experience this at least once. It is an experience that eludes all but the most fortunate or wealthy coin collectors. I think that this is what draws most to our hobby. Just knowing that tomorrow, you might find an unknown token. It is not the value involved, but the idea that you will possess something that no one else has.

A unique token can be purchased from a knowledgeable collector for a mere fraction of what a US coin of similar (or even lesser) rarity can be purchased for. The ability to possess such a token is not just the province of a wealthy collector. Any collector, through a fortunate purchase, diligent research, hard work hunting or shopping, or a substantial (as it relates to tokens) monetary exchange can acquire that elusive quality that most coin collectors can never hope to achieve.

Also this month, we have an interesting item from a Fairbanks newspaper, Jessen's Weekly, concerning the search for a pair of elusive tokens. This was brought to our attention by a local collector who shall remain nameless, mainly because we don't know his name. As any of you that have been into the shop know, the atmosphere is very informal. It is quite possible for some one to come in a couple of times a year for many years, and I still will not catch his name. Probably bad business, but that is how it is.

We would like to call your attention to the fact that we are accepting advertising. While our circulation is small, the collectors are serious about Alaskan material. We will lay out your ad for you, but please provide typed copy so there are no mistakes due to handwriting.

#### **FOX LIONS CLUB MEDALS**



We have recently found a variety of this medal, but cannot decide which is the correct version, and which is the variety.

Just today, we purchased two of these medals, and one has a reeded edge, while the other has a plain edge. Memory does not serve to tell me which is correct. I want to say that the plain edge is normal, as I recall others that we have seen as having a plain edge. But, this was made by the firm that made the Pipeline medal set of 12 one ounce silver medals, and these all had a reeded edge, except for the error on #2 with the plain edge.

Wrote the above at home last night, and didn't have the medals to examine. The reason for the plain and reeded edges should have been obvious. The plain one is numbered on the edge. Believe that there were either 100 or 1000 numbered made. Will have to look into it!

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## GAMBELL, cont.

Indian Affairs Office resulted in the kind assistance of Mrs. Frank J. Dougherty, and later of her husband, in eliciting the following information:

When the Doughertys were assigned to Gambell in 1938 the village had no post office and no regular mail service, although mail did come in from two to four times in the summer months. Then followed a long wait of seven or eight months until another mail brought news from the outside world. One of their many duties was to supervise a native owned and operated store at Gambell. In those days there was little cash kept on the Island because the infrequent visits outsiders made it unnecessary for business transactions and then there was the danger of destruction by fire if kept on the Island. When a native brought in a fox or some carved ivory to sell to the store, he would frequently request that a part of his credit be distributed on the books to several of his neighbors to whom he was indebted. This made extra work for the native storekeeper, to say nothing of adding to the busy supervisors task of checking the accounts each month, so Mr. Dougherty conceived the idea of obtaining some trade money which could be used by the store to pay for purchases and which in turn could be used to pay local debts or to pay the store for merchandise.

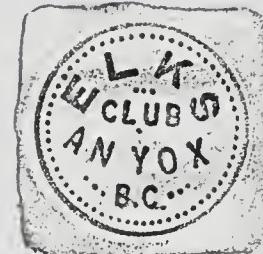
A supply of the tokens in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents and \$1 was obtained and put into circulation. The plan worked successfully, although subsequent speedier mail service and the influx of more visitors with ready cash helped to alleviate the prior shortage of legal tender. The tokens had the added advantage of encouraging the natives to deal with their own store and obtain merchandise cheaper than they could from outside sources. The Gambell trade tokens became so popular that a similar system was established at Savoonga, the other native village on the Island.

The possession of one of these tokens may mean little to some collectors, but to me it will always bring back memories of a group of friendly Eskimos living in a village which is approached from the beach

by a path strewn with heaps of bones of whales and walruses which in the past years had furnished food for the inhabitants, of the sight of overturned skin-covered native boats (umiaks) and of numerous seal skins tacked to the sides of houses or placed on frames to dry. But the one outstanding impression which the passing years will never dim is the smiling dark eyes of the round-faced Eskimo children who, in a barren world when there is seemingly little in the way of bodily comforts, nevertheless enjoy life to the fullest and are the happiest youngsters in the world.

(Ed. Note: As we are now aware, \$5 and \$10 tokens were also issued.)

## ANYOX ELKS CLUB USED TOKENS



Anyox, BC was situated about 90 miles north of Prince Rupert at the head of Observatory Inlet which is about 30 miles from Stewart, BC or Hyder, AK, as the crow flies, across the peninsula separating Observatory Inlet from Portland Canal. Anyox became an active copper mining and smelting town in 1914 and remained so until 1935, when the low price of copper made it unprofitable to continue operations. By 1943 the town was deserted. The mining and smelting were under the control of the Granby Mining, Smelting and Power Co. Ltd. until 1935 when it was sold to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. (Cominco). The site remains inactive. The only tokens we are aware of from the ghost town were used by the local Elks Club.

-Leslie C. Hill

I will trade R7 and R8 Alaska Tokens for Yukon Territory tokens, Alaska scrip and Alaska National Bank Notes.

## RON BENICE

25 Stewart Place, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

914-666-4414

## LOCAL COLLECTOR LOOKS FOR EARLY COLLEGE TOKEN

(From Jessen's Weekly, August 16, 1956)

Lt. Harold Ford with the Ladd AFB finance office since March, has an unusual hobby: he collects transportation tokens. He is currently in search of a token that is considered very rare, the token of the early College bus lines that linked the University with Fairbanks from 1931 to 1936. There were two tokens issued, he says, one for 12 1/2¢ and one for 25¢.

The only man known to own both of them is Ford's friend, Roland Atwood, the first enthusiast to follow the hobby. Ford isn't sure exactly how many of each type were issued, although he knows several people who own one of the two. He is afraid that since the tokens were made of aluminum, the many drives for that metal during the war may have claimed a good number of them.

The most ancient token Ford owns is one from an omnibus that operated in Boston in 1837. He explains that the "omnibus" was actually a glorified stage coach, consisting of a passenger car drawn by horses. This token is one of 5,000 listed in the catalogue. But Ford, who has about 4,000 tokens, says that there is no such thing as a "perfect" collection since there may be only one or two examples remaining of several specific issues, and they may be owned by several different people.

Ford has tokens made of plastic, paper, and almost every type of metal. He says that about 10 new ones, never before listed in the token catalogue, are found each year.

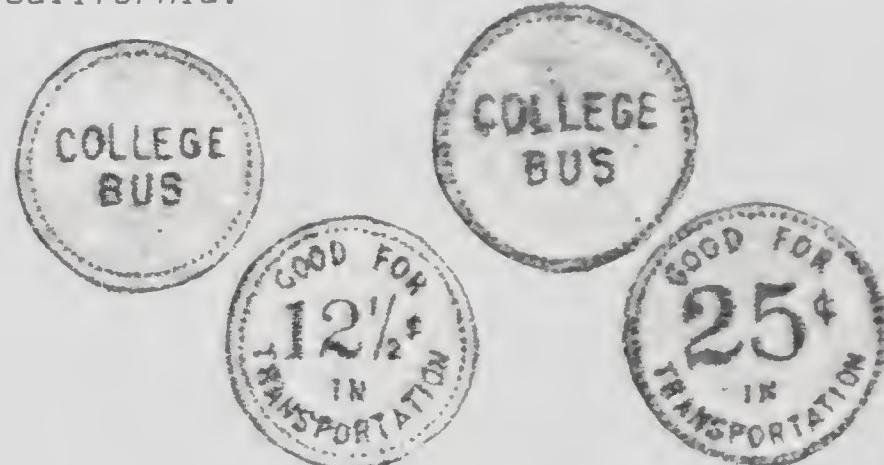
He is associate editor of "The Fare Box", the publication that serves over 200 followers of the hobby.

Although Ford is looking for an early College token, he has a later issue of the University Bus lines put out in 1936. Made of brass, they were stamped in 12 1/2¢ and 15¢ denominations.

He states that he doesn't think his hobby is particularly unusual, since he has

known people who collect almost everything. Everytime he sends a letter to one of his friends in the States, for example, he encloses a local milk carton. Another of his friends has one of the largest collections of cigar bands in the world.

Ford adds, as an interesting sidelight, that there is only one mule car line left in North America, which, unfortunately, has not issued a token. Ford and his friends aren't giving up, however, since the mule line is located in Disneyland, California.

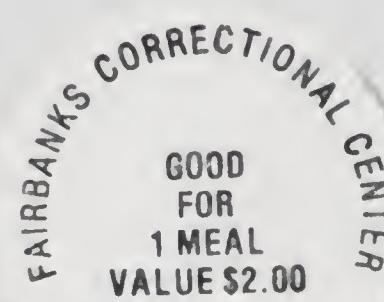


(Illustrations from the August 23, 1956 issue of Jessen's Weekly, published in Fairbanks).

### FOR THE RECORD



CORDOVA: Empress Cigar Stand, 6 1/4¢ in trade. Brass, 21mm (submitted by Alan Weinberg).

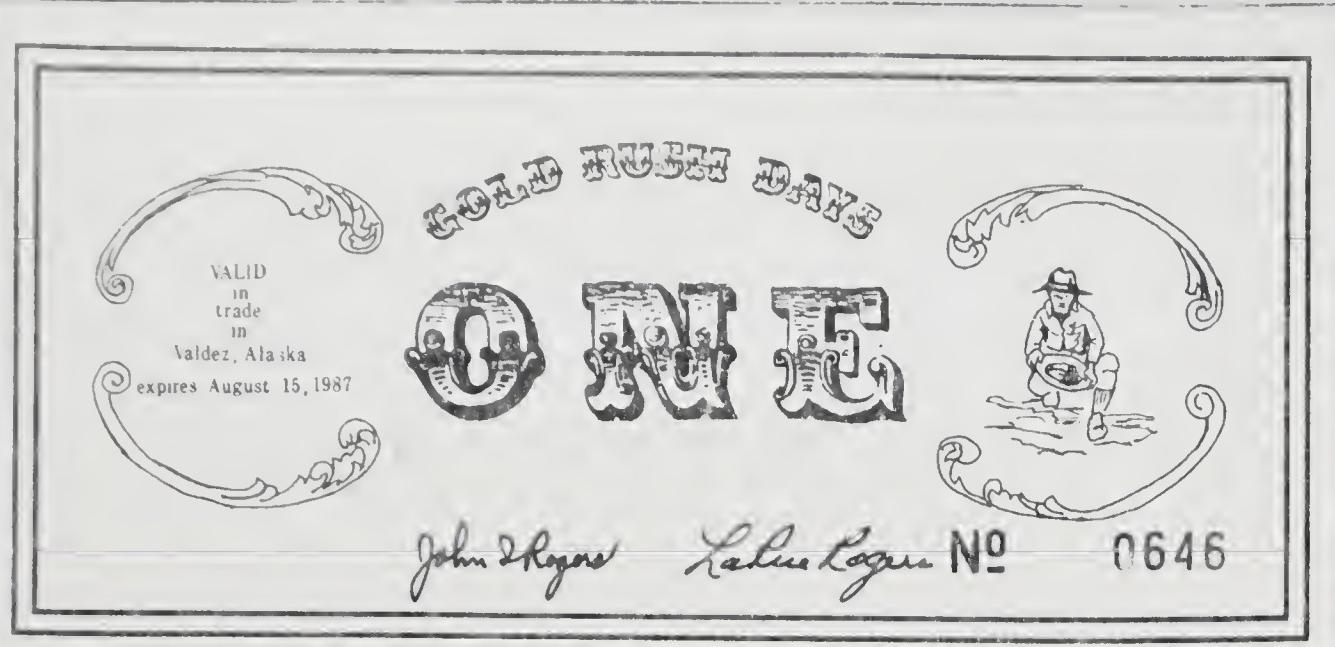


FAIRBANKS: Fairbanks Correctional Center, Good for 1 Meal, Value \$2.00. Black on white plastic, 42mm.

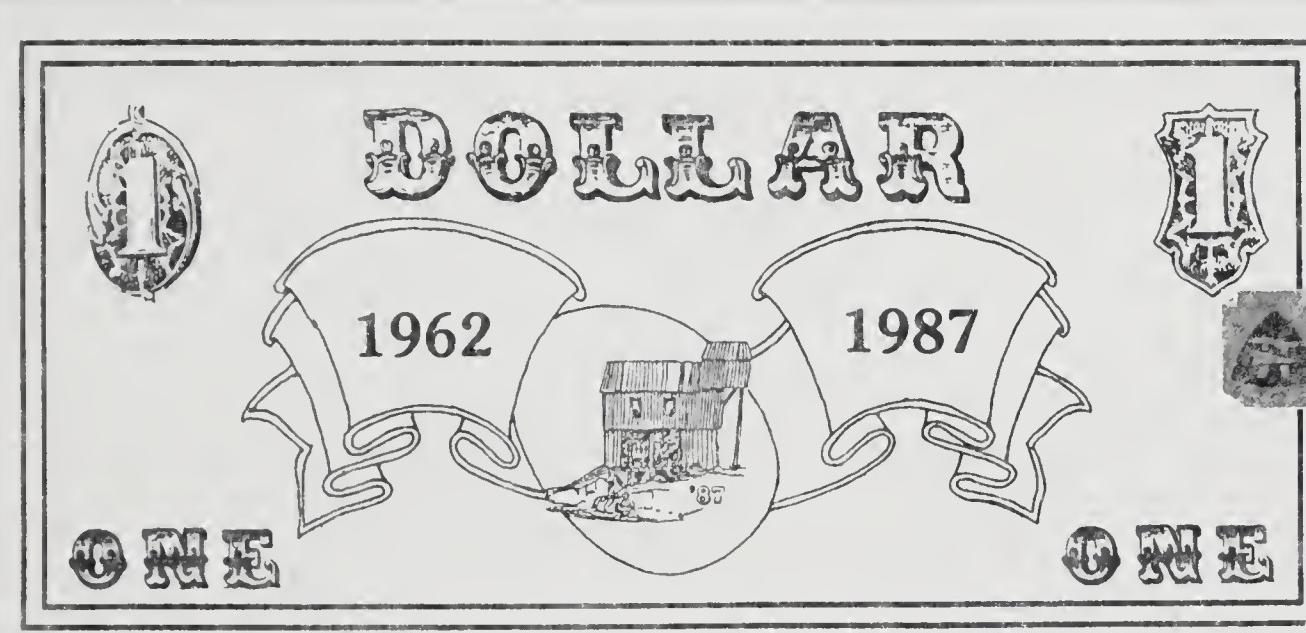
FOR THE RECORD continued on the next page.

NSA IS BUYING, PLEASE WRITE

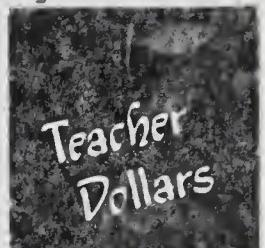
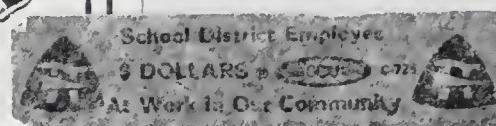
FOR THE RECORD, cont.



VALDEZ: Gold Rush Days Dollar. Black on green paper with green underprint (Mead Security). Serial number in red. 137mm by 67mm.

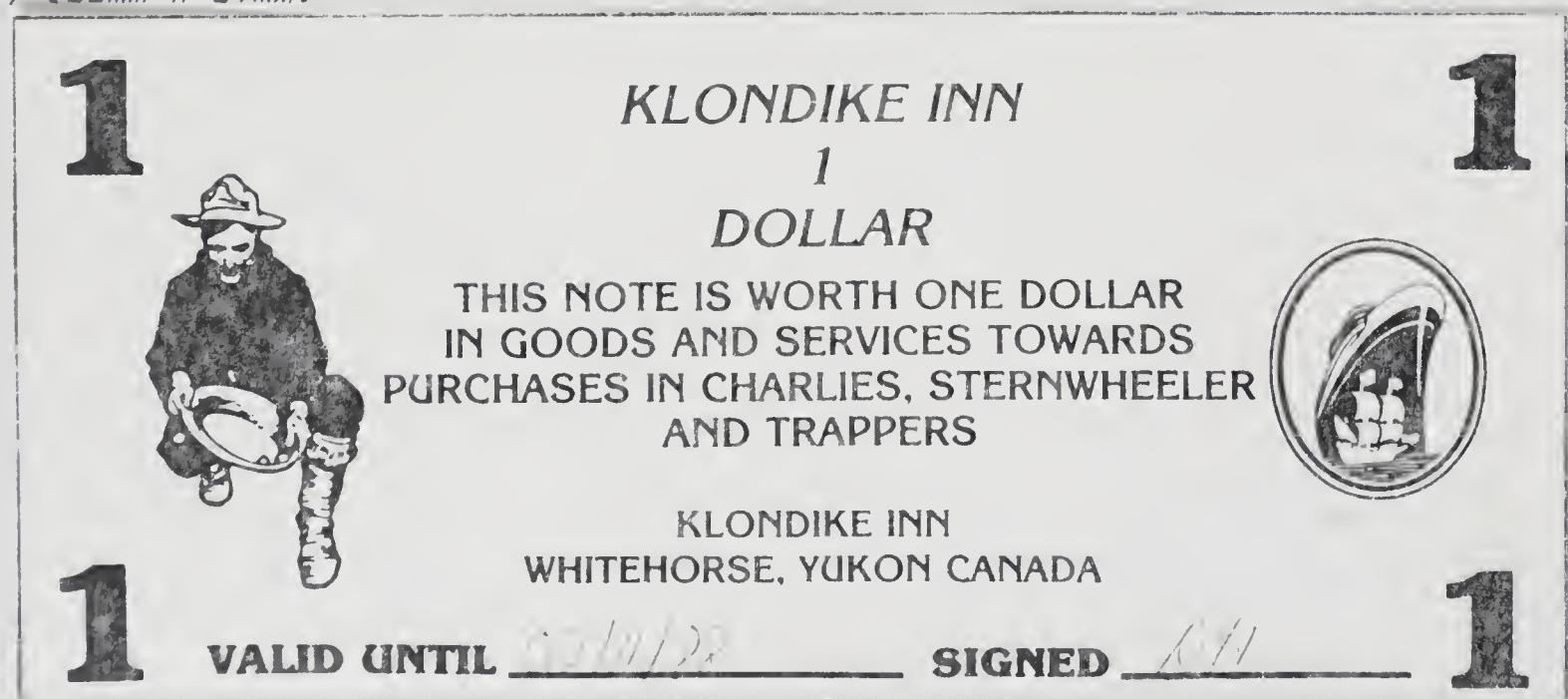


WHITEHORSE: Klondike Inn, Klondike Dollar. Nickel alloy, 34mm. Reportedly last use about 3 years ago.



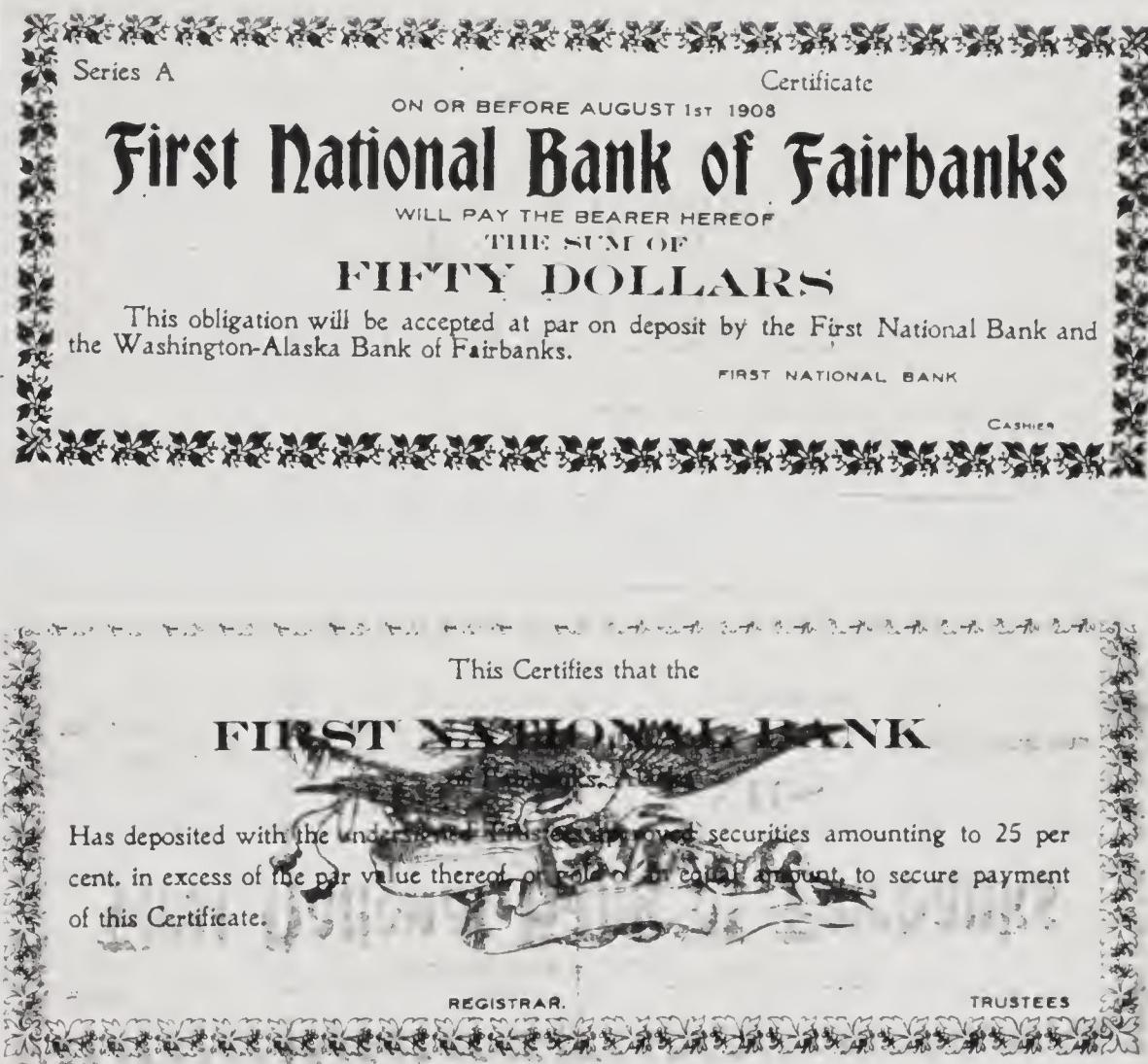
STICKERS: Found on dollar bills: Teacher Dollars; red apple, green stem and leaf, NEA/AK in red, all on black background. School District Employee Dollar; black on hot pink.

WHITEHORSE: Klondike Inn, 1 Dollar. Dark red on cream colored, glossy card stock. Uniface, 155mm x 69mm.



# NEW CURRENCY IS READY FOR ISSUE

(From the Fairbanks Daily Times, December 18, 1907)



the Washington-Alaska and First National banks this morning, are really beautiful specimens of the printer's art, and do credit to the workmen whose skill was employed in their production.

Major John P. Clum, George Preston and Edward J. Stier, who were appointed jointly by the two banks as trustees to take charge of and hold the securities placed in their hands and to examine them and issue certificates thereon, were busy with their labors last night.

A tremendous amount of work is involved in inspecting and scrutinizing the securities. These trustees are doing their work thoroughly and painstakingly, and are accepting and ..... only such as are shown to be of the highest class. These securities are assigned by the banks to the trustees absolutely, and are held by them for the redemption of the certificates when the proper time arrives.

(continued on page 33)

*North of 60°-*

- South of  $50^{\circ}$

## EDITORIAL

The last two weeks of July were so bad, I almost decided that August would be my second month off from ATC for the year. But with my travel plans for the fall, I couldn't afford to take it off. So, here is August's issue, late, but earlier than July's!

With falling through a display case (38 stitches), getting hit in the eye with a softball (15 stitches), and then colliding with our left-center fielder, I have had a severe lack of desire to do anything. But more important in delaying the newsletter in the lay out of the new store. In the summer, I have to leave the front door open to try to keep the store cool. The computer is in a room off of the front, and it is difficult to hear people come in.

And, yes, I am desperate to fill up space and get this in the mail. We do need articles and submissions of space fillers, For The Record, etc.

Concerning the article from the Fairbanks Daily Times. The 2nd in the series that was illegible, was legible enough to indicate that the notes illustrated do not correspond with what is being written about. Hopefully, in a few months, I will be able to get up to the University and spend some time in the microfilm room.

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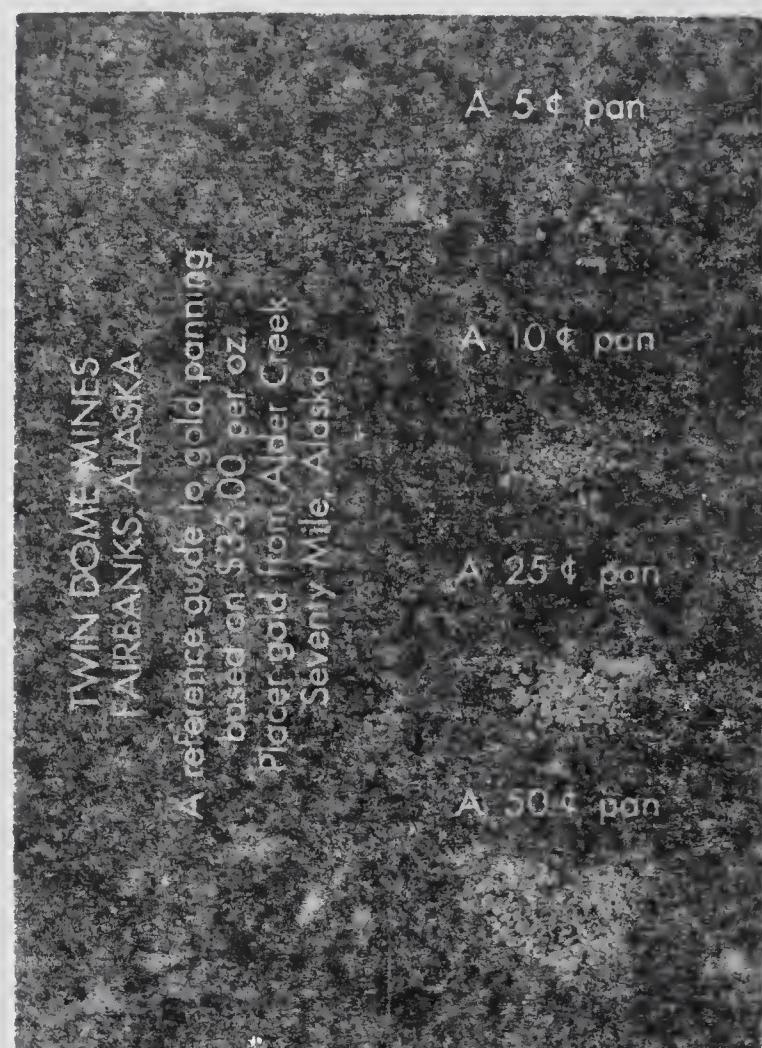
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Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

## TWIN DOME MINES



The above came in with a small collection recently. A very neat item for the tourist trade. May have to think about doing something like that for next summer. The gold is just taped on. And, a 50 cent pan at \$35 per ounce is worth close to \$6.50 now.

- - - - -  
I will trade R7 and R8 Alaska Tokens for Yukon Territory tokens, Alaska scrip and Alaska National Bank Notes.

**RON BENICE**

25 Stewart Place, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

914-666-4414

- - - - -  
The Valdez (Alaska) Museum is seeking tokens, stock certificates and ephemera relating to Valdez and the Prince William Sound/Copper River Basin Region

Contact: Joe Leahy, Museum/Archive Dir.  
Box 307  
Valdez, Alaska 99686

## NEW CURRENCY, cont.

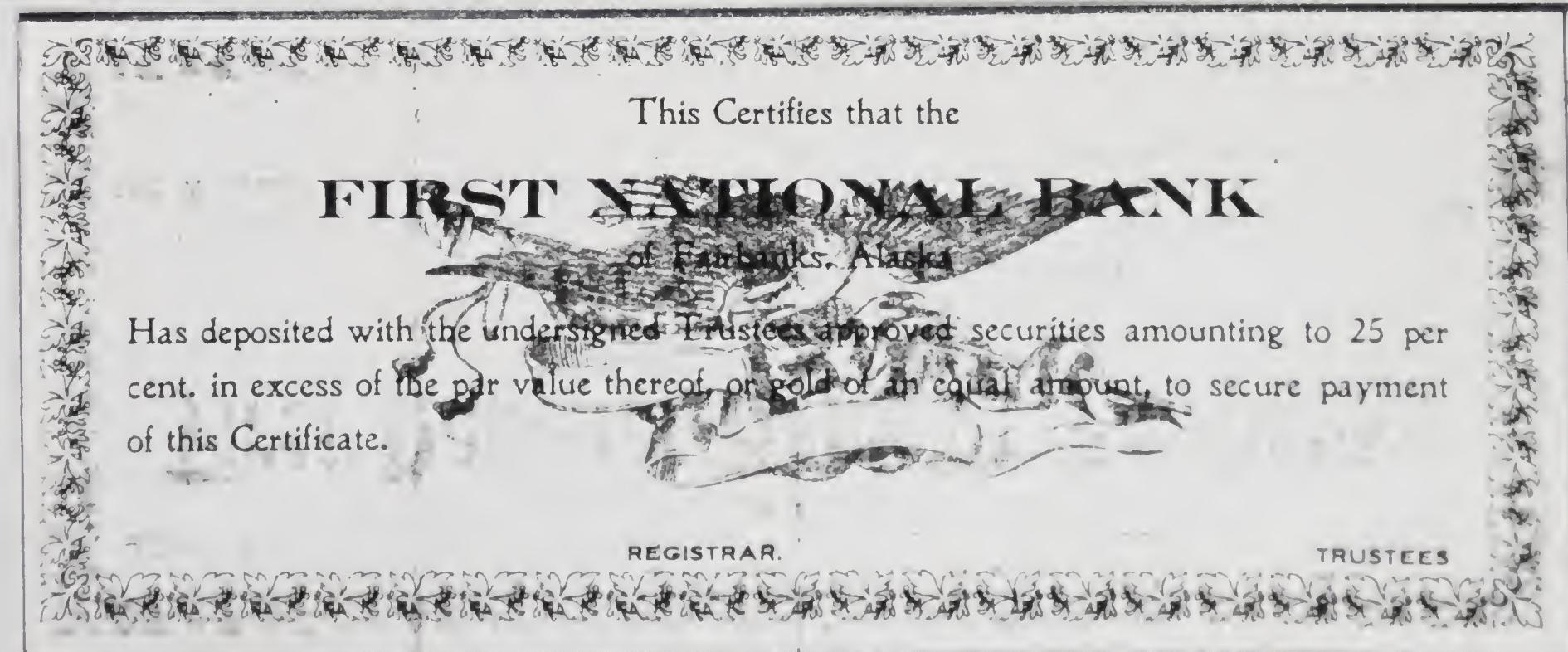
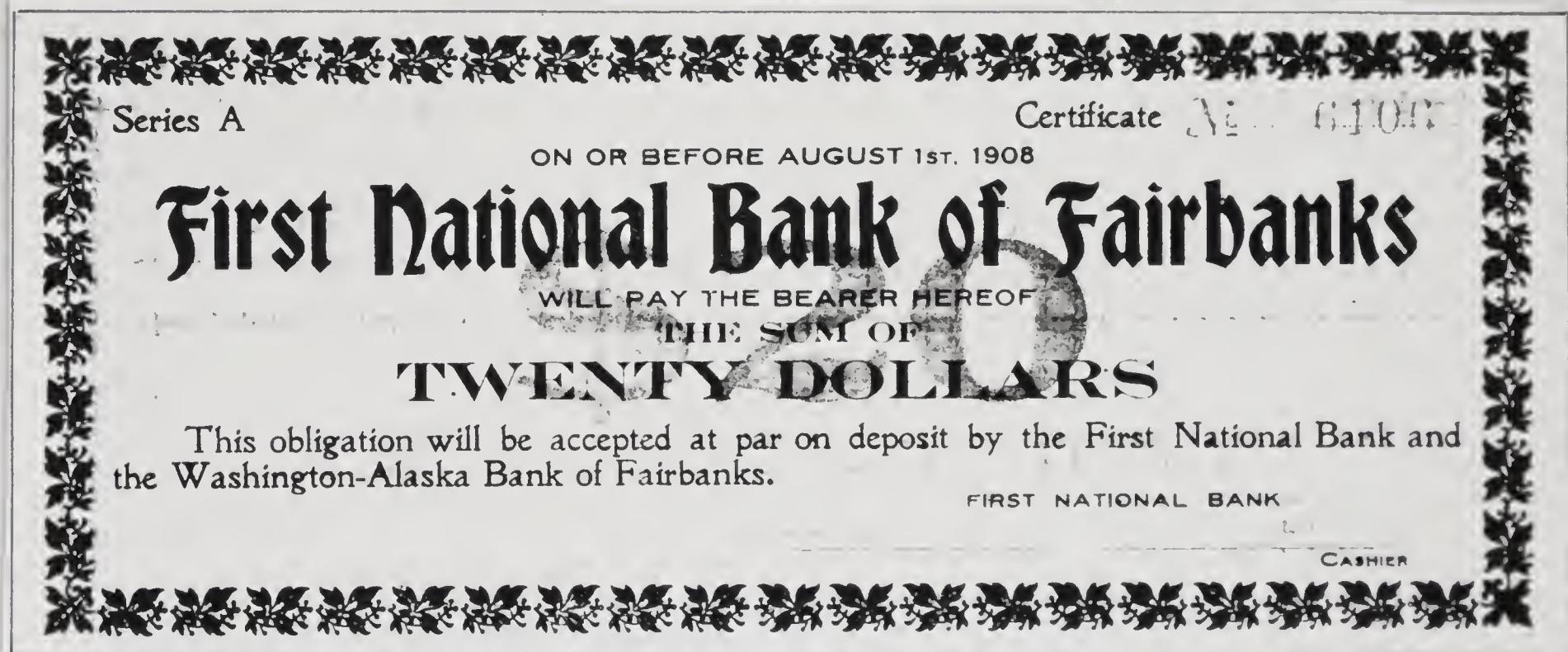
The time of these gentlemen was too fully occupied last night for them to submit to an extended interview, but they expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the character and quantity of the banks' securities.

These certificates are issued in denominations of one, three, five, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred dollars, and each one must be signed by the trustees.

The mere operation of attaching their signatures involves an immense amount of labor, and the trustees will probably be busy up until the usual hour for opening this morning, at which time they will have enough certificates to turn over to the two banks to meet all demands.

(Editor's note: The note on the front page is reduced in size. The note on this page is actual size. Both are printed with green lettering and borders. While not reported to us, we suspect that the serial numbers are of a different color. Our thanks to W.E. Nickell for providing this for illustration.)

While these certificates are labeled for the First National Bank of Fairbanks, they are also acceptable at the Washington-Alaska Bank. So, are these the certificates about which the article was written? See Nome-34 in Benice's "Alaska Tokens". This was for the Nome Clearing House. Did Fairbanks have Clearing House certificates before these were issued? And if you will look at the article reproduced in the December, 1985 issue of ATC&PN, there is a comptroller and his assistant, not trustees, and none of the names match!)



## NORTH STAR DANCE HALL

We don't have any information on this establishment, but thought we would run it since we were doing currency this month.

Can't report what color the note is, as it was not reported to us. Must apologize to the person who sent it in. Did not make a note, and have misplaced any correspondence that may have been with it.

A very nice item, whose use was probably similar to the current Monte Carlo Night currencies currently used (1 cent per dollar).

The front of the note depicts some people standing on a wooden suspension bridge. The back has the well known scene of three men shooting the Whitehorse Rapids in a Peterborough Canoe. Yes, that is the same seen on our large, 3 1/2 inch bronze medal of the White Horse Rapids!

## ALASKAN ZNACKI BULLETIN

The sister publication to ATC&PN will soon see the release of its 5th issue. If you would like to receive the next four issues, send \$4 to NSA. Back issues are \$1 each. We do not think that you will be disappointed.





(FAIRBANKS): American Legion, Post 11, 75 cents in trade. White on red plastic, 28mm.

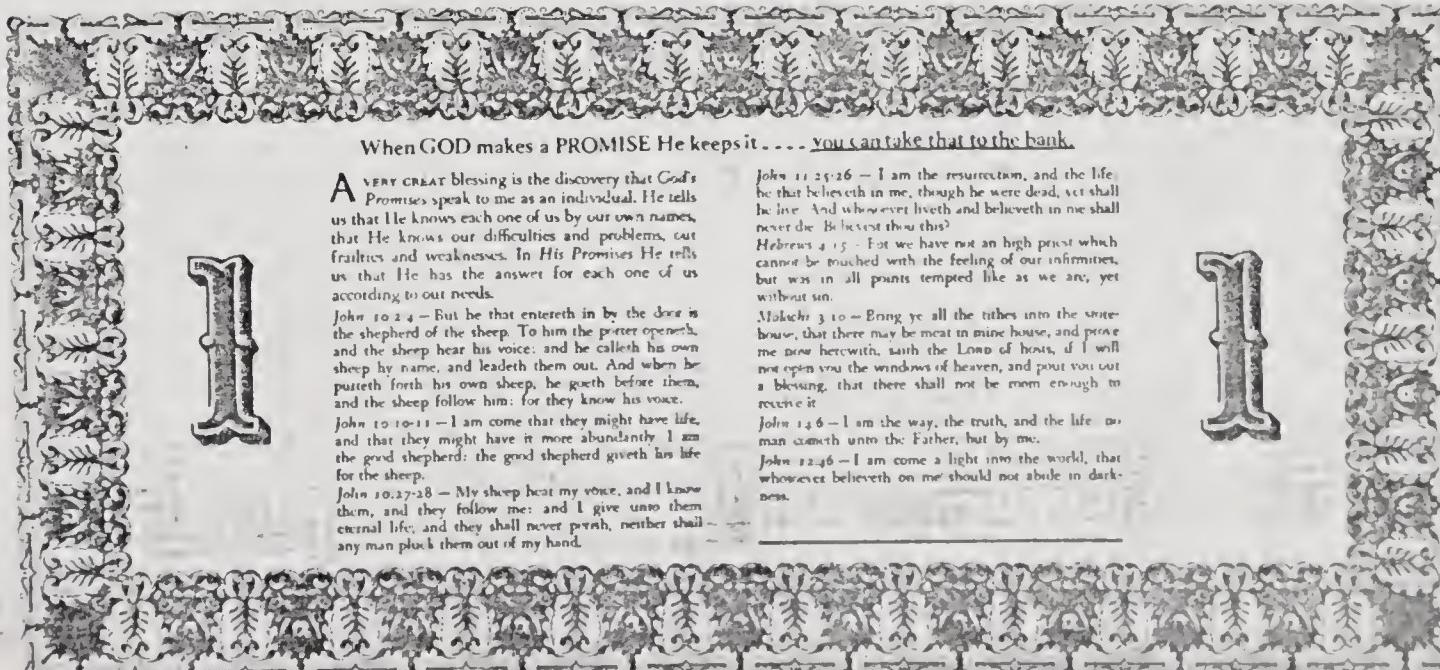
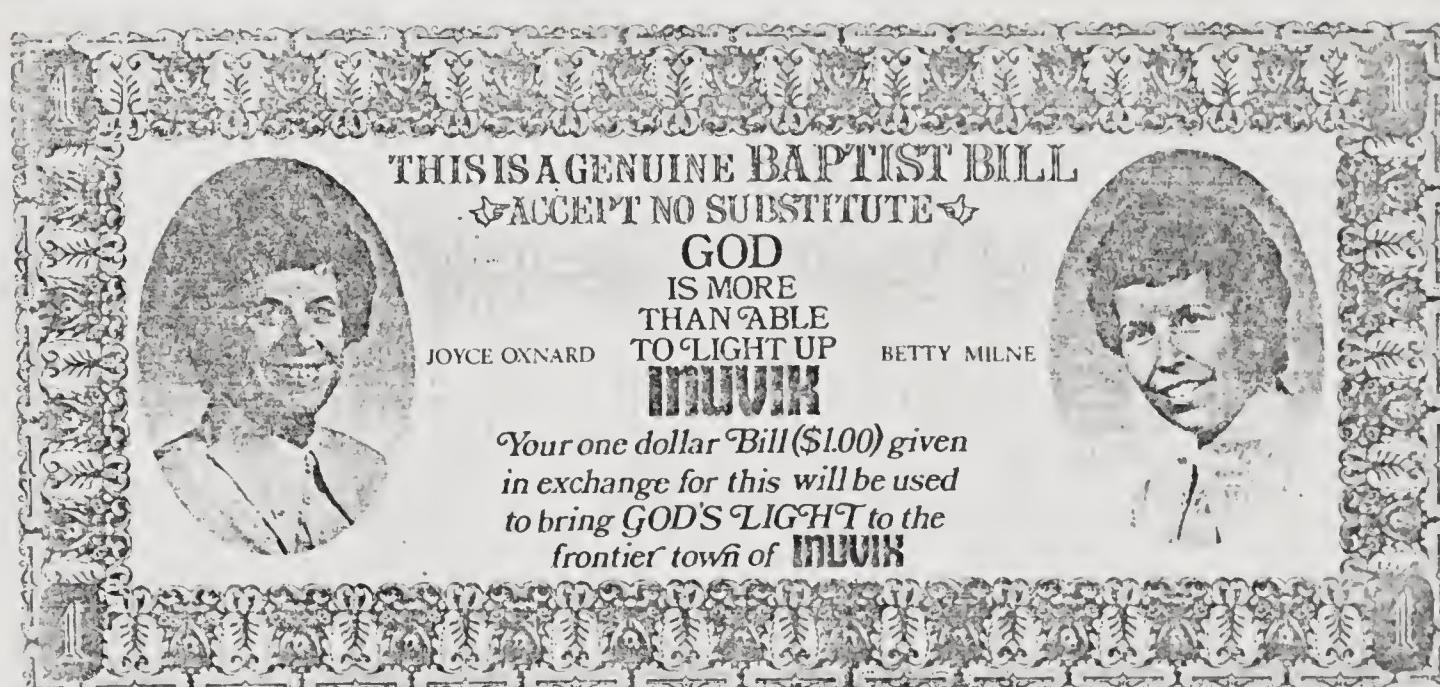


FAIRBANKS: Arctic Bowl, One Free Game. Black on Wood. Have seen an Arctic Bowl wood with the pins scattering, but can't recall seeing with all ten pins standing.



(ALASKA): N B of A "monogram" (National Bank of Alaska) impressed into an imitation gold nugget. Probably for a key chain. Gold colored metal, 24mm by 11 mm, and 6mm thick.

INUVIK, NWT: Baptist Bill, "Your one dollar Bill (\$1.00) given in exchange for this will be used to bring GOD'S LIGHT" to the frontier town of INUVIK". Front is printed in black and green, the back in green. The paper is green, with markings like security paper. This note is several years old, and I just found it in one of my files of items to run!





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VOLUME IX, NUMBER 8.

SEPTEMBER, 1987.



**THE HARRY HEALY TOKENS  
OF  
OLD CROW, YUKON**

by  
Donald M. Stewart



These tokens from the Old Crow Trading Post are amongst the rarest of the fur trade tokens used in Northern Canada. Only ten specimens are known. (Ed. note - since this article was written in 1971, at least one, and probably more specimens have appeared).

The village of Old Crow was established on the bank of the Porcupine River, about 1912. A seasonal fishing camp had existed nearby for many years prior to this. The village is said to have been named for a respected old Indian Chief, Crow, "I walk". His other name, ZZEHGITTLIT, "to keep away from smoke, he always sits by the wigwam hole" was recently given to the village's modern school.

Old Crow is located in northern Yukon, 132 miles southwest of Aklavik, 142 miles west of Fort McPherson and 160 miles east of Fort Yukon, Alaska. The village is built on a flat of land some 30 feet above the Porcupine River in an area once covered by timber but now quite open. At present it has a permanent population of 180 people, of whom the majority are Vanta Kutchin, "the people of the lakes", a sub group of the Loucheux Kutchin. Most live in spruce log cabins, which are inexpensive to build, yet comfortable in both winter and summer.

The postmaster, Neil McDonald, a resident of Old Crow since 1913, recalls they were lucky to receive mail four times a year until the 1920's when the mail from Fort Yukon came once a month by dog team in the winter. Later, Air Alaska gave monthly mail service from Fairbanks and Fort Yukon until 1959 when Conelly Dawson Air Service began delivery which has now reach a twice a week basis. The Royal Canadian Police detachment was moved from New Rampart House on the Alaska-Yukon border to Old Crow during the summer of 1929.

Dr. T.C. Boon records early missionary work in this area by Robert McDonald and Bishop Bompas and reports that an early convert, John Tizya, gave his teachings in the Tukudh language in the skin houses by firelight. After Mr. Tizya saw log cabins for the first time, he built the first log cabin near the Old Crow River and laid the foundation for this settlement. A daughter-in-law reported "Here John Tizya used his own cabin for church and called the people to service by beating a frying pan with a stick. He used up a good many frying

Continued on page 38

## EDITORIAL

This month promises to be the most exciting month, numismatically, that Alaska has ever seen!

If you had asked me last winter what the chances of the A.N.A. conducting a seminar in Alaska, I'd have given odds of 100 to 1 against it. Well, on Sept. 25, 26 and 27, the A.N.A. will conduct a coin grading seminar in Anchorage at the Clarion Hotel. If you are interested in taking this course, you should call the A.N.A. at 1-800-367-9723. The A.N.A. seminar is an outstanding opportunity. If you are at all interested in U.S. coins, this is a course that you should not miss.

There will also be a coin show the evening of Sept. 25th in the Denali Room of the Clarion, following the completion of that day's portion of the seminar. If you think you would like a table, call Robert Hall at 907-263-1534.

Finally, there will be an coin auction the evening of September 26th, conducted by N.S.A., Inc., and Alaska Rare Coin Investments, both of Fairbanks. There will be approximately 250 lots. Our portion of the auction contains 30 lots of Alaskana, from tokens to books to beer labels! If you would like a copy of the auction listing, please write.

- - - - -  
Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist is a publication of Numismatic Services of Alaska, Inc. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

Editor - Dick Hanscom

Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick

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1/4 page - \$5	
1/5 page, business card size - \$15 for 5 months.	

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Commercial Advertisers, write for rates.

### 1987 GANDER AVIATION DOLLAR



A Hawker Hurricane Fighter is depicted on the obverse of the Gander Chamber of Commerce's 1987 Aviation trade dollar. A Canada goose in flight, the crest of the Gander Chamber of Commerce, is shown on the reverse side.

The Hawker Hurricane, a British developed aircraft, was widely used in the early years of World War II. It had a maximum speed of 330 MPH at 15,000 feet, flying at a maximum weight of 4,480 pounds. The service ceiling was estimated to be 32,500 feet. It carried four American Colt-Browning sub-machine guns mounted in each wing. These specifications earned the Hurricane the distinction of being the most versatile of all single seated war planes operated by the combatant powers in World War II. The Hurricane fighter is the aircraft which, more than any other single type, was responsible for the defeat of the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940. It is significant that 1987 marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the first model of the Hawker Hurricane fighter. Gander Airport was the base for No. One Group of the 126th Squadron of Hurricane fighters from July 24, 1943 to June 1, 1944.

The Sherritt Mint of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta struck 10,000 specimens on 33mm nickel bonded steel blanks. Specimens are available postpaid at \$1.50 from Gander Chamber of Commerce, 109 Trans Canada Highway, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada A1V 1P6. Previous issues, each showing a different World War II aircraft that was used at Gander Airport, are available as follows: 1982 (\$3), 1983 (\$3), 1984 (\$2.50), 1985 (\$2) and 1986 (\$1.50).

-Jerry Remick

## OLD CROW, cont.

pans before he was given a bell by Bishop Stringer. Later the people built their own church, mission house and small schoolhouse."

The Kutchin have a long history of barter with Coastal tribes and also traded with the Eskimo. Dentalium shells and beads mad from these shells wee a recognized currency as well as personal adornment. Sir J. Richardson wrote "to be accounted a chief among the Kutchin, a man must possess beads to the amount of two hundred beavers". As early as 1814, trade with white man was established and carried on at Fort Good Hope. The Hudson's Bay Company established Fort McPherson in 1840 and Fort Yukon in 1847. LaPierre's House, 50 miles west of Fort McPherson operated until 1890. For the Kutchin, hunting and trapping for furs has long been means of obtaining trade goods.

Unfortunately, little is know about the trader who established the Old Crow Trading Post. It is said that Harry Healy and Charlie Strom operated a small steamboat for Dan Cadzow out of New Rampart House and Old Rampart, Alaska. Later they moved down to Old Rampart and operated a trading post. In the 1920's, Healy moved to Old Crow River where he operated the Old Crow Trading Post. Old Crow River passes through an area of swamps and lakes known as the Old Crow Flats where thousands of muskrat have their home providing an excellent source of fur. It was not unusual for one trapper and his family to trap 2,000 furs in a season. Some years later, Healy went into partnership with a local native, Joe Netro, and then sold out to him.

For a while afterwards, Healy stayed on in Old Crow, but left in September, 1933 in a small boat to go to Campbell Creek. He was never seen again by the community and it is thought that he met with an accident on his way. When Dr. Douglas Leechman photographed the trading post in 1946, he reported everything was still on the shelves as it had been when the doors were closed. Under the counter, he found a pail half full of tokens, but Dr. Leechman save only two or three sets. The final resting place of these tokens is unknown, but the Porcupine River could probably tell the

story.

Old Crow is facing the challenge of civilization. Oil company crews moved into the area in 1969 and are threatening the peace of Old Crow Flats. Even the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have exchanged their huskies for snowmobiles. It is to be hoped that some happy compromise of the old and new cultures will evolve from these activities.

The above article is from the Canadian Numismatic Journal, September, 1971, page 270. An acknowledgment and Bibliography were included but are deleted here.

## GAMBLING IN OLD CROW

(from "Vanta Kutchin" by Douglas Leechman, Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources, Ottawa 1954.)

"Poker is a favourite gambling game, and relatively large sums may be wagered. I have seen muskrat skins valued at \$3.75 each, used as chips." (submitted by Brian Denman).

## FAIRBANKS CIGAR STORE



(from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, August 3, 1937).

Jame Mulrooney of the Fairbanks Cigar Store is employing only local artisans in the re-decoration of his place on Second Avenue. He is also having a 37-foot bar with a seven-foot cigar counter installed. Metal work will be done by Wilbur & Sons, decoration by Nerland's Store, and the carpentry work by Ray K. Carter and Art Simpson.



The Keg restaurant in Whitehorse, Yukon is one of five locations noted on this "voucher". It is brown on tan. Apparently presented by the server to the customer.

(submitted by Brian Denman).

I will trade R7 and R8 Alaska Tokens for Yukon Territory tokens, Alaska scrip and Alaska National Bank Notes.

**RON BENICE**

25 Stewart Place, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

914-666-4414

Please accept  
this voucher for

\$100

worth of Good Times  
at any Keg Restaurant  
on your next visit

with my compliments

#### THE INTERIOR KEGS

**Prince George** - 582 George St., 563-1768

**Kamloops** - 317 Tranquille Rd., 554-2525

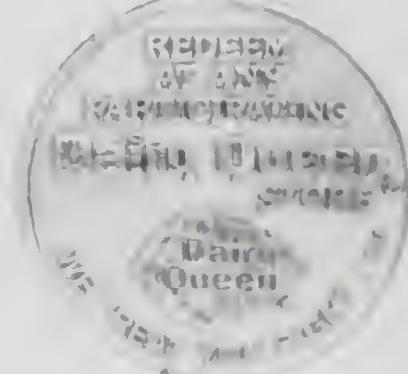
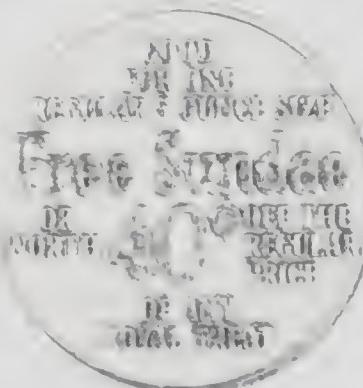
**Kelowna** - 274 Lawrence Ave., 763-5435

**Whitehorse** - 3rd & Jarvis, 668-4949

**Vernon** - 2905 - 29th St., 542-0202

Limit One Per Customer

#### WHITEHORSE DAIRY QUEEN



The above is probably a stock piece provided by Dairy Queen to its franchises. 40mm, silver on gray plastic (submitted by Brian Denman).

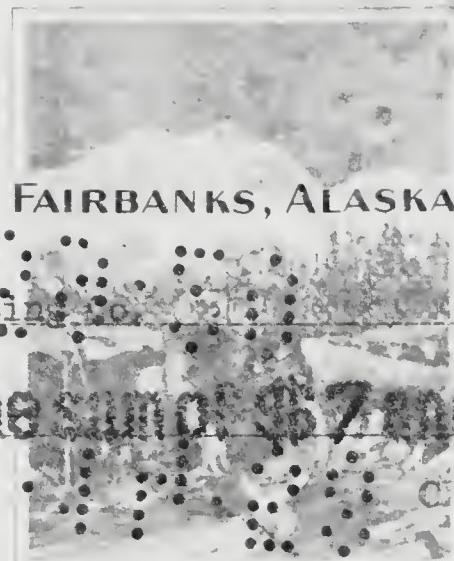
**N-S-A. IS BUYING  
PLEASE WRITE  
OR**

**SEE US AT THE COIN SHOW SEPT. 25TH  
CLARION HOTEL, ANCHORAGE, AK**

CHATANIKA POWER CO., INC.

CHATANIKA POWER CO., INC.  
Box 568  
Fairbanks, Alaska

No. 2



PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

Commercial Printing

Nov. 13, 1958 59-20

\$ 7.14

ALASKA NATIONAL BANK  
of FAIRBANKS  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

DOLLARS

...The sum of Seven Dollars

CHATANIKA POWER CO., INC.

BOX 568

196

525\$1  
PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Sept. 28 1959

59-20

Richard A. Dellage

\$ 163.45

DOLLARS

PAY I, G. H. Hanson

...CHATANIKA POWER CO., INC.

*Arnold J. Hanson*

We have recently acquired a hoard of checks from the Chatanika Power Co., Inc. First type is a counter check, of which there are two types. Check #1 (not illustrated) has "Chatanika Power Company, Inc." typed above the signature line. Checks #2, 4 and 7 are like the top illustration.

The regular printed checks start with #100, and of these in our possession, only #100 is date in 1958 (pre-statehood). It is of the type in the bottom illustration. All counter checks are some what weathered.

Orders are being accepted for these items. Please be aware that there are only four counter checks available, so if you really want one, a phone call would be in order. Purchasers of these checks will receive a free regular printed check.

Naturally, there is only one #1 check, and the purchaser of this check will also receive the free regular check, but also the order blank that was used to order the regular checks.

Check #100 is again, one of a kind, so please consider a phone call if you want this one. This is a bit weathered and faded also.

Please use the order blank below. While these checks are not pristine, they should be quite acceptable. The regular checks are in very nice shape. Order with confidence as your complete satisfaction is guaranteed. Any item may be returned for a full refund.

# ALASKAN TOKENS

# COLLECTOR



# POLAR NUMISMATIST

NSA Inc. • P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • Subscription \$8.00/year  
VOLUME IX, NUMBER 9.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1987.



## FAIRBANKS, 1967 A-67 AND THE FLOOD



The year 1967 marked the centennial of the purchase of Alaska by the United States from Russia. This event was marked statewide with the issue of probably more than 100 medals. The U.S. Mint even got into the act, issuing a set of silver, bronze and platinum for the event. This medal featured the nearly omnipresent Purchase Centennial Totem Pole on the reverse. This symbolic totem pole starts with the "onion dome" of a Russian church, surmounted by an eagle. Next is a gold panner, a locomotive and finally topped by a star inscribed "49". The obverse of the mint's medal has the legend "North to the Future", and a prospector with all his gear.



But with all the activity throughout the state, the official Centennial Exposition site was what is now Alaskaland in Fairbanks. Why Fairbanks was chosen is a bit of a mystery to me. Sitka seems to be the logical choice for such an exposition. But Fairbanks it was, and the A-67 site has become a valuable recreational resource for Fairbanks. The A-67 medal, illustrated at the top of the page, was issued in sterling silver and bronze.

A very different



item is a nickel with bronze colored foil attached to both the obverse and reverse. The obverse features the A-67 emblem, while the reverse has the Purchase Centennial Totem Pole. Unfortunately, we have no further information on this item.

The final medal that we have seen from A-67 or Alaskaland is presumably a 50¢ trade item. The reverse has "Alaskaland Exposition", while the obverse has a gold panner, "Fairbanks, Alaska", and "ASIRTSIQUQ 50¢ ATILIRLUNI". This strange looking inscription is actually Central Yupik and according to the Alaska Native Language Institute at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks translates to "It is good for a total of 50¢".

Unfortunately for A-67, 1967 was also the year of the Great Alaskan Flood, as declared on a medal made by Magdalene Uzell. These



## EDITORIAL

Some of you will note a subtle change in the newsletter this month. Page 44 is an unashamed attempt to sell something.

Some will say that we have always done this, and we have, but I think not quite this way. In the past, we would offer items for sale, but very rarely "promote" them to this extent.

The major reason for this, is that we just do not pick up enough material to do a full price list anymore. We do plan a complete price list of Alaskan tokens and medals, but cannot begin to guess as to when that will be. So, in the mean time, you will be advised of new items in stock by articles in the newsletter. Hopefully, the articles will continue to be informative, and at the same time make available to you items that you might wish to purchase. Please note that just because an item is in the newsletter, it does not mean that we have it for sale!

Last weekend in Anchorage was very enjoyable. The ANA Grading Seminar was Friday through Sunday. On Friday night, there was a bourse, and on Saturday night, our auction with Alaska Rare Coin Investments. The bourse was active, with a good turnout. The auction was a buyer's paradise. To put it bluntly, we took it in the shorts on many items. The best thing about that was that some of you out there reading this were the recipients of these bargains. If something is going to sell cheaply, I like to see it go to someone that has supported us over the years, not someone I have never seen before and is there strictly as a bargain hunter.

Some items in this newsletter may be things that we have done before. The APEA sticker??? Or, Family Market food stamp coupons. After nearly 9 years, it all starts to look the same! Well, next year, we'll take care of that. Next year will be our tenth year. At the end of the year, we will do a ten year index. Then, we will only have to keep track of things for the next ten years.

Well, all for this issue. Next issue will be in December, when all subscriptions will come due.

## DEMPSEY HOTEL - CHATANIKA



A few years ago, we purchased a small hoard of 25¢ and \$1 tokens from the Dempsey Hotel of Chatanika. These sold out very quickly. Recently, we have acquired three more of the 25¢ tokens.

Two are ok, but the third has a small hole. These are available on a first come, first served basis. The undamaged tokens are \$55 each, while the one with the hole is \$30. These prices are postpaid.



Also picked up some Polet Stores, 5¢, red fiber tokens. These are quite common and will sell these for \$8 each, plus SASE or \$1.50 for postage, insurance and handling.

- - - - -  
YOUR COMMENTS CONCERNING OUR OFFERING MORE ITEMS FOR SALE THROUGH THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

IF YOU ARE ORDERING, PLEASE NOTE THE TERMS OF SALE CAREFULLY, PARTICULARLY "POSTPAID" OR "PLUS SASE OR \$1.50".

- - - - -  
Just received a brochure from a well known coin selling firm. This one tops all previous comers. You too can own year sets with silver Franklin halves in "Brilliant Shiny" condition". Good, so they polished the coins! Any one care to pay a severe premium for junk silver??

- - - - -  
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Editor - Dick Hanscom  
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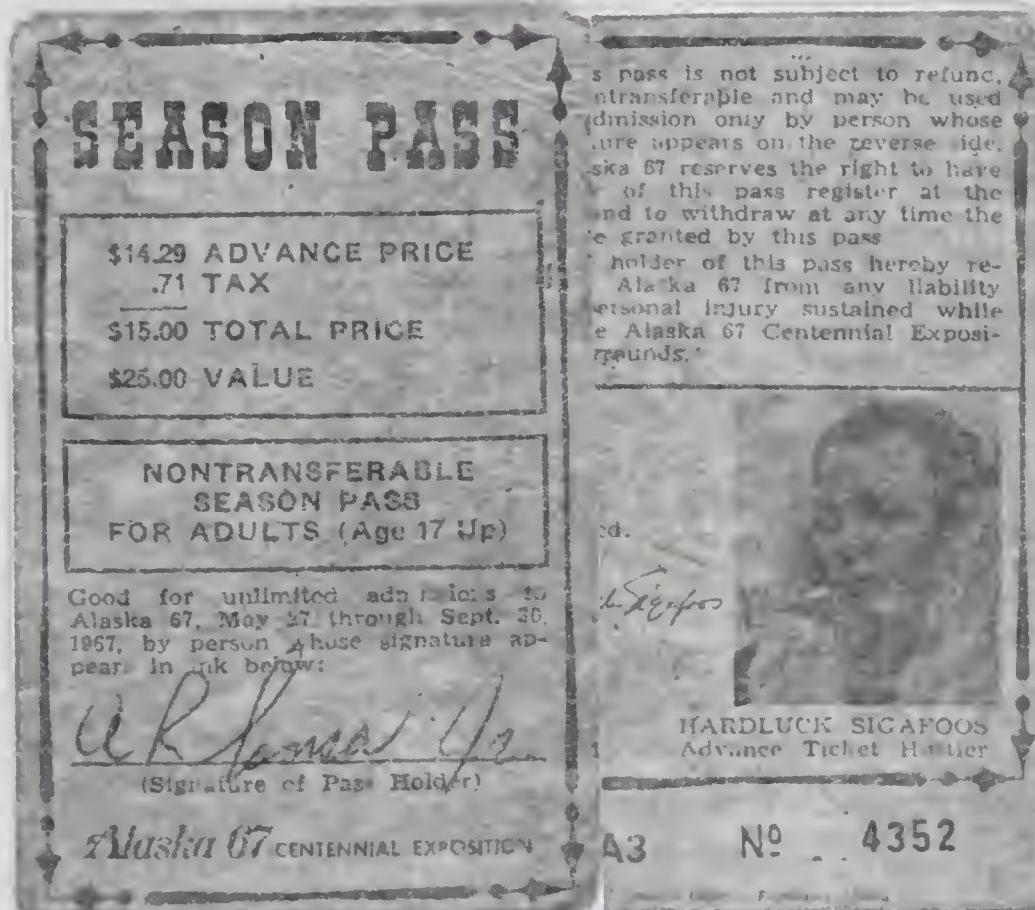
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medals (illustrated below) were struck in aluminum, bronze, brass and sterling silver. "Dawn came - The Chena and Tanana rising" and on August 14th, the flood came, cresting at 18.82 feet above flood stage. A flooded town, representing Fairbanks is on the reverse of the medal.

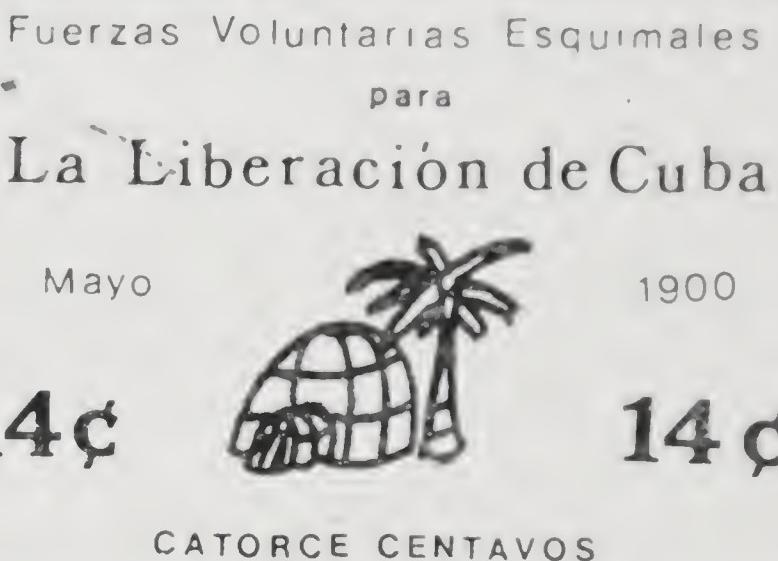
Governor Hickel and U.S. Senator Gruening appear on the obverse of the medal with the legends "There will always be a Fairbanks" and "Disaster Aid". I seem to have heard that a portion of the profits from the sale of these sets was donated to flood relief.



Finally, above is a season's pass for the Alaska 67 Exposition, valid from May 27 to September 30. Since Alaskaland is right on the riverbank, it was one of the first things to flood. The season was very definitely cut short with the flood starting on August 14th.

Our thanks to Bert Samsa for providing a sample of the season's pass for photocopying.

### ESKIMO VOLUNTEER FORCES FOR THE LIBERATION OF CUBA



Fantasies are fun, especially if there is no intent to deceive. The above is a neat little item, printed on a "souvenir card" (8 1/2 by 11 inches). The card describes the forces as a "paramilitary force of eskimos organized in 1896 by an unemployed Niagara Falls hotel clerk, Fenchet MacKoon. MacKoon trained his forces on Useppa Island, Florida from 1896 to 1900, when he learned that the Spanish-American War had resulted in Spain's expulsion from Cuba." The 14 centavo note is the only surviving example of a "series of denominations ranging from 1 through 99 centavos (his men had difficulty making change). MacKoon died in Toronto in 1968, ugly and obese, but fabulously wealthy, author of a forgotten chapter in caribbean history."

The souvenir card was issued by the non-existent "Lower Caloosahatchee Paper Money Collector's Club" for its third annual convention. It is available for \$3.50 from Robert C. McCurdy, P.O. Box 150495, Cape Coral, FL 33915. The souvenir cards from the first and second annual conventions are also available, and you may purchase all three for only \$10, postpaid.

### ANOTHER STICKER ON DOLLAR

Another sticker has appeared on dollar bills in Fairbanks. This one is from the Alaska Public Employees Association, printed red on white. The APEA has just voted down the state's latest offer by 37 votes. The governor says that he will implement the contract unilaterally.

## USARAL DEACTIVATION



The late David G. Fronius commissioned the above medals to be made. They note the deactivation of the U.S. Army-Alaska. Dave Fronius was well known to Alaskana collectors throughout the United States and Alaska. David passed away on Dec. 9, 1982.

These medals were made in 11 distinct varieties (one could not expect Dave to do anything less!). They are as follows with mintage in (): .999 silver (10); sterling silver (10); nickel silver (a copper nickel alloy), unnumbered (210); nickel silver, numbered (210); golden bronze, unnumbered (10); golden bronze, numbered (210); antiqued bronze, unnumbered (400); antiqued bronze, numbered (10); aluminum, unnumbered (100); aluminum, numbered (10); and gold plated bronze, unnumbered (10).

The single pieces turn up infrequently. On our recent trip to Anchorage, we were fortunate to acquire a complete set, with all numbered medals bearing the number "8". The medals are still in the original 2x2's that Dave used, bearing his handwriting to identify the medals. Please note that there are six medals here with mintages of only 10 pieces each. This is a rare modern set, and not likely to be available again for some time to come.

We are offering this set for sale at \$300, postpaid. We suggest a phone call to reserve this. Our number is 907-452-6461. If the phone rings a 3rd time, hang up unless you want to talk to our answering machine.

SEE ABOVE FOR A  
RARE OPPORTUNITY  
TO PURCHASE A  
VERY RARE-MODERN SET  
OF MEDALS

## PALMER TRADE DOLLARS



We have been out of stock on these items for some time, so with this new acquisition, wanted to let you know they were available again.

They were issued in 1977, 1978, and 1979. They were made by Sherritt Mint in Canada, and a very few of the 1979's in the plastic capsule have the remains of a red "Made in Canada" stamp. Just a bit of trivia. Can't provide any with this stamp.

The 1977 features a Rodeo scene, while the 1978 has an equestrian scene. Both note the "Rodeo and Scottish Games". The 1979 depicts a cornucopia, and states "Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce". All have a common reverse, the Palmer city seal.

The trade dollars are priced at \$4, \$3, and \$3 respectively. Postage can be an SASE or include \$1.50 for postage, insurance and handling.

I will trade R7 and R8 Alaska Tokens for Yukon Territory tokens, Alaska scrip and Alaska National Bank Notes.

RON BENICE

25 Stewart Place, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

914-666-4414

## FOR THE RECORD



**ANCHORAGE:** Diamond Parking, 25¢. Plastic, two colors: white on red or white on light blue, 28.5mm.



**ANCHORAGE:** Family Market, food stamp tokens of usual fabrication: 1¢ (black), 5¢ (green), 10¢ (blue), 25¢ (red) and 50¢ (pink).



**(ANCHORAGE):** Rondy Bingo, 50¢. Gold on blue plastic, 39mm.



**(ANCHORAGE):** Bingo, Diamond Minis. Maverick Bingo token supposedly for use in Anchorage. Made by Sherritt Mint for a supply wholesaler in Toronto. Mintage, 30,000. Brass, 25mm. (submitted by Jerry Remick).



**CHATANIKA, CLEARY OR LONG, AK:** Willis Bingle, 25¢, with encased Indian cent, 1900. Willis had businesses in all three locations. (submitted by Alan Weinberg).



**(FAIRBANKS):** Nik-o-lok, Toiletoken. Brass, 16mm, bifacial. Used at Woolworth's in Fairbanks



**KETCHIKAN:** Hotel Connell, encased Indian cent, 1909. (submitted by Alan Weinberg).



**METLAKATLA, AK:** Centennial Celebration, "An Alaskan Native Community". Obverse features a long house. Reverse depicts the Seal of Annette Island Reserve. Not marked, supposed to be one ounce silver. (submitted by Henry C. Keene).



**WASILLA:** Spinning Wheel Fabrics, 5¢. Green on wood.

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1/4 page - \$5

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# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR



## POLAR NUMISMATIST

NSA Inc. • P.O. Box 2832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • Subscription \$8.00/year  
VOLUME IX, NUMBER 10.

DECEMBER, 1987.

### ALWAYS LOOK TWICE

by

Lee E. Poleske



One of the many joys of collecting checks is that what may initially appear to be just another check may turn out to be a valued addition to your collection.

The check illustrated above is a good example. As a collector of Alaskana, I was not, at first, very interested in this check when it was offered to me. Iron Cliffs Co. checks on the Third National Bank of New York are by no means rarities and have nothing to do with Alaska. A more careful look at the check made it clear why it was being offered as an Alaska related item.

The check is made out to and endorsed by A. P. Swineford, Esq. In 1881 when the check was written, Swineford was editor of a Michigan newspaper, but three years later he became the second governor of the District of Alaska.

Born in Ashland, Ohio, in 1834, A. P. (Alfred Peter) Swineford was apprenticed at 15 to learn printing. After working on several newspapers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, he moved to Marquette, Michigan in 1868 and became editor and publisher of the Marquette Mining Journal.

A staunch Democrat, Swineford entered politics and served one term in the state legislature and two terms as Marquette's mayor.

Continued on page 48.

## EDITORIAL

Every so often another dealer does something that warrants mention in these pages. Unfortunately, most of the time it is of a negative aspect. In those cases, we cannot "name names". But recently, one dealer exhibited highly ethical behavior. Behavior that cost him some money, and saved us some!

In a recent mail bid auction, we placed what we believed to be reasonable bids. The terms of the auctioneer were that he would reduce the bids where ever possible, but not on bids less than \$10.

Several of our bids were reduced to this level, and we can offer some items to you (in the next column) at prices that are very close to our original bids.

And who is this "mystery" auctioneer, you may ask. Well, we are pleased to tell you it is Stephen P. Alpert. We have done business with Mr. Alpert for a number of years, and are pleased to have him as one of our subscribers to this newsletter. We have been very happy with the way Mr. Alpert conducts his business, and can highly recommend him to our readers.

Now, remember where you read this and be nice and don't bid against us!

\* \* \* \* \*

Normally, a subscription order blank accompanies this issue as most subscriptions come due the first of January. And, we always send out the January issue to all because we don't want to lose you.

Well, this year, there is no subscription renewal notice with the December issue. You will all receive the January issue, though it may be a bit late (mid-January).

We are expecting some changes here, upon which we cannot elaborate. They will be positive changes for the business, and we think also for the newsletter.

The index for 1987 should accompany this issue. If by some chance that it does not, please request it.

Finally, our thanks to all for your support this year, and the previous 8 years that we have printed ATC&PN.

## TOKENS FOR SALE

The following are recent acquisitions and only one of each is in stock.

ANCHORAGE:	Alpine Inn, 5¢ and 25¢.	
B-5,	a and b.	18.00
BARROW:	Tony's Recreation, 10¢.	B-1b 20.00
BETHEL:	Oscar Samuelsen, 25¢, 50¢, and \$1.	B-4, a to c. 20.00
CHISANA:	Lou Anderton, 25¢ and 50¢, \$1 and \$5.	B-1, a to d. 75.00
CRAIG:	Lib's & Jessie's, 25¢.	B-2b 13.00
HOONAH:	Hoonah Pkg. Co., 5¢.	B-1a 15.00
KOBUK:	Harry Brown, 50¢.	B-1b 12.00
McCARTHY:	Johnson Hotel, 12 1/2¢.	B-4a 50.00

All prices above are plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

## PRICES REALIZED

From the Presidential Coin and Antique Co. Sale #42, June 27, 1987.

Lot 402: Valdez, Nizina. 40¢. B-12b. \$250.00.

Lot 403: Cordova, Empress Cigar Stand. 6 1/4¢. Unlisted in Benice. \$300.00.

The above do not include the buyer's fee of 10%.

What is interesting is that there was another Nizina 40¢ token for sale in another auction at nearly the same time! Do not know what the other piece sold for.

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Editor - Dick Hanscom

Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick

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1/5 page, business card size	\$15 for 5 months.

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**ALWAYS LOOK TWICE**, cont.

In 1885 he was appointed governor of Alaska by newly elected President Grover Cleveland. Although purchased in 1867, no provisions for organized government were made for Alaska until 1884, when the First Organic Act made it a civil and judicial

only after one year in office, when Cleveland, a Democrat, was elected and Swineford took office as the second governor of Alaska.

Once in office he was frustrated by his lack of power and the fact that all the laws for Alaska were made by the United States Congress thousands of miles away. Swineford spent his term lobbying for territorial status for Alaska. He felt the lack of this status was due to the ignorance of Congress about Alaska and to the efforts of commercial fur and fishing interests in Alaska who were afraid a territorial government would both tax and restrict their activities.

11/15/68  
In 1888 Benjamin Harrison, a Republican, defeated Cleveland for President and Lyman E. Knapp became the new governor of Alaska.

Swineford stayed in Alaska after his term as governor and made his home in Ketchikan. In 1907 he started the first newspaper in that town, The Ketchikan Miner, which he edited until his death in 1909.

In 1915 a mountain 28 miles north-east of Juneau, the capital of Alaska, was named in his honor and lake at its base, fed by glaciers of Mt. Swineford was named Swineford Lake.

- - - - -  
IF YOU ARE ORDERING ITEMS FROM THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CAREFULLY NOTE THE TERMS OF SALE REGARDING "POSTPAID" OR "PLUS \$1.50 POSTAGE AND HANDLING" OR "SASE". DO YOU LIKE MATERIAL OFFERED IN THIS MANNER???

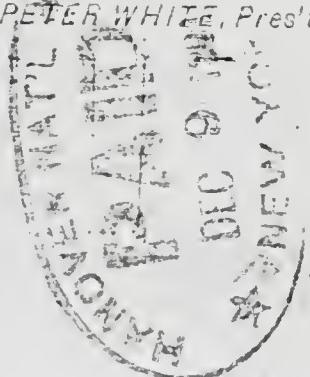
- - - - -  
I will trade R7 and R8 Alaska Tokens for Yukon Territory tokens, Alaska scrip and Alaska National Bank Notes.

**RON BENICE**

25 Stewart Place,      Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

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district and provided for an appointed governor and district court. At that time President Chester Arthur appointed John H. Kinkead as the first governor of Alaska. As a Republican, Kinkead resigned the post



# DAYS OF '98

Whitehorse, Yukon  
Friday, July 3rd, 1931

8:30 p. m.

For one night only the old "NORTH STAR-DANCE HALL" will be "WIDE OPEN" again. With the same old bar, roulette wheel, crap table, black jack and Klondike tables, that were used in '98 and '99; with "Sourdough" gamblers, many of whom "came with the first" over the White Pass and Chilkoot; with good music, short and snappy dances, miners, mushers and dance hall girls, you will enjoy again a wild summer night of 83 years ago.

The only "Bank" in this show will be the money. No clinking dollars of honest toil will be allowed on the tables or bar, but you take your dust, nuggets and greenbacks to the Cashier and buy all the '98 "Redbacks" you want, and the sky is the limit at the green tables.

In '98 the unbroken custom was to buy your girl a drink after each dance, for which she receives a drink check; and this custom still prevails.—It is up to the girls-to-work the miners for all the drinks they can get, for a beautiful prize goes to the lady securing the most drink checks during the night.

You have never seen the Yukon if you miss the chance to see the "Days of '98" at the North Star.

## Prizes—Yukon Jewelry

Lady winning most '98 money.

Gentleman winning most '98 money.

Visiting Lady securing most drink checks.

Local Lady securing most drink checks.

## Trimmings

Drinks \$25.00 each or two for \$25.00. (25c. was the smallest coin in use in '98.) Gambling Chips \$5.00 each. (5c. actual cash value.)

Extra supply '98 money \$1.00 per \$100.00.

Drinks and Chips must be purchased with '98 money. No cash allowed on bar or tables.

## Admission

Gentlemen \$1.00; Ladies 50c.; Children under 15 years not admitted.  
Each person paying admission will be given equivalent in '98 money.

Extra copies of this poster may be obtained from Cashier.  
Souvenir '98 money free at the train.

To the left is a "poster" advertising Days of '98 celebrations to be held in the North Star Dance Hall in 1931. This handbill provides much information concerning this type of event.

Note that the notes are referred to as "Redbacks", indicating that the notes have a red back. Also note that gambling chips were used. These were valued at \$5, with an exchange rate being \$1 per \$100 of '98 money (one cent to the "redback" dollar).

Finally, a single side of a specimen of this currency is shown below (submitted by Brian Denman).



## FOR THE RECORD



**ALASKA:** Alaska Purchase. Part of the First Ladies of the U.S. series. Andrew and Eliza Johnson. Silver, 26mm. One piece available for sale at \$12 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.



**CHATANIKA:** Chatanika Lodge, good for one drink (champagne glass). Plastic, 41mm. Two colors; red or brown, both with silver lettering. The red was for a beer, while the brown was for a mixed drink. (submitted by Wil Courtney).



**CHATANIKA:** Old F.E. Gold Camp, good for one drink (gold panner). Plastic, 41mm. Three colors; blue, purple and black, all with gold lettering. The blue was for draft beer, the purple for beer and the black for a mixed drink. (submitted by Wil Courtney).

**MAVERICK:** A.C. Co. "M", counterstamped N.G. on obverse. Aluminum, 38mm. Anyone trying to attribute this to the Alaska Commercial Co. without exceptional evidence will be whipped with a wet noodle. (submitted by Mike Barnhart).



**FAIRBANKS:** Chena View Hotel, good for one drink. Black on wood.

**ALASKA:** Counterstamped cent, part of a set of 24, "Historical Moments in American History. The one has an oil rig and the pipeline. One way to sell a cent for a dollar, as issue price for the set is \$24.50. Not available from NSA.



**AKLAVIK, NWT:** S.M. Peffer, 25¢ I/T. "Your Home Merchant and Fur Dealer. One piece available for \$145, postpaid.

**ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR**



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